

Uproar as campaigner hits out at chains design

# LEADERS IN CALL TO BACK THE FLAG

Report by Daniel Wainwright

**SUPPORT our flag – that was the message this week from MPs, council and community leaders who hit back at claims the Black Country flag is offensive.**

Anti-racism campaigner Patrick Vernon, OBE, insisted the area was ‘still in denial’ over its links to the slave trade.



Unity – Valerie Vaz

Following Tuesday’s Black Country Day – and the festival which has seen thousands celebrating the region’s history and culture – he pointed out that the chains, designed by a Stourbridge schoolgirl, Gracie Sheppard, were a ‘disturbing’ image.

Leading the backlash, Valerie Vaz, MP for Walsall South, said: “The flag is a symbol of unity. Gracie produced a clever design that inspires our multi-cultural present and future.”

But Mr Vernon added: “If we were in America the chains logo would be seen as the equivalent to the Confederate Flag.”

One council leader has now invited Wolverhampton-born Mr Vernon to visit the Black Country and see it for himself. Sandwell Council’s Darren Cooper said: “It is simply wrong to say the flag is offensive. I’m inviting Mr Vernon to visit and see the diversity of our culture.”

### Comment

Mayor of Wolverhampton Ian Brookfield, said: “The flag has been flying for several years in an area populated by one million people. And not once in that time has anyone made a comment like this.”

Tom Watson, West Bromwich East MP said: “I love the flag. Patrick is the only person who has ever raised this concern and he must have an over active imagination.”

The flag was designed in 2012 the Stourbridge youngster. Her design was inspired by Elihu Burritt, the American consul to Birmingham who described the region as ‘black by day and red by night’. The white cone in the middle symbolises the Red House Glass Cone and the chains commemorate local industry.

Organisers of Black Country Day celebrations said on their Facebook page: “A 12-year-old girl designed a flag that has united a community. The Black Country is a proud multicultural society.”

● Furore – Page 2



Former Miss Black Country Shelley-Marie Sumner, from Walsall, flies the flag which has been at the centre of controversy this week

# Alliance to improve care in Black Country

THREE NHS trusts have launched an alliance in a bid to work closer together to benefit patients in the Black Country.

The Black Country Alliance was formed on Tuesday, to join in with the celebrations for Black Country Day.

It is a partnership agreement between Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust and Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

Hospital chiefs said the model is the ‘first of its kind’ and will help develop services and ensure patients in the Black Country get the best care. It comes as bosses say they are being encouraged by NHS England to look at new models of care. One of the aims of the al-

liance is to keep and further develop specialist services for the Black Country.

It will look at new ways of providing care to patients across the Black Country, keeping care closer to home and ensuring specialist skills are kept in the Black Country.

Richard Kirby, chief executive of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: “NHS England is encouraging provider trusts to investigate new models of care and the Black Country Alliance is the first of its kind.”

“Working closely with the two other trusts we have been looking at how we can develop a partnership based on our shared values and approach to help us to develop services in the future for the people that we serve. This alli-

ance offers opportunities to our staff through collaborative working, we will encourage innovative ways to provide the best possible care, developing centres of excellence in the Black Country.

“This is an exciting time for all three trusts as we aim to be able to keep and return specialist services to the Black Country for our patients, who may otherwise have to go to a larger trust further afield to receive treatment.”

The Black Country Alliance is governed through a joint board to oversee a small number of priority areas where all three trusts think there is value in redesigning or developing that service.

### FUNDRAISING

## Cooking up cash for a good cause

MOVE over Mary Berry, bakers are being urged to roll up their sleeves in aid of charity. The Great Walsall Bake Off will be the star turn at the town’s health trust summer fair on July 24.

It takes place in the main atrium at Walsall Manor Hospital and will feature face painting, a smoothie bike and advice and support from health trainers from 11am to 4pm.

Proceeds from the fair organised by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust will go towards maternity services.

### HERITAGE

## Former shops are celebrated in book

A NEW book celebrating the history of shops in Darlaston is set to be launched. The 92-page book titled ‘Shops and Clubs of Darlaston Through The Years’ will be released tomorrow, Friday, at a launch event.

The book, which includes anecdotes and many photographs of shops past and present in the town has been compiled after months of research by the committee group at the All Active Centre.

● Memory – Page 16

### COUNCIL

## Travellers in move onto playing fields

TRAVELLERS have moved onto playing fields in Walsall – becoming the latest group to set up a pitch in the borough.

Walsall Council received reports that 18 caravans had moved onto Broadway West Playing Fields on Saturday. Officers from the authority were sent to the scene early this week to carry out welfare checks.

There has been a surge in camps across the borough in recent months.

Last week, Walsall Council obtained a court order to move on a group of travellers following complaints they were causing nuisance and leaving dogs on the loose.

### INSIDE

## TRACEY ON TRAIL OF BRICK NICKER



PAGE 5

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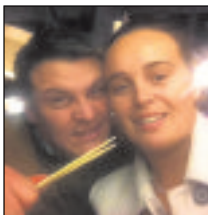
The man who takes a sideways look at life

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# Father hailed hero after drowning



Dean Price, with wife Kelly

A FATHER from Walsall has been hailed a hero after drowning while trying to save his young daughter who got into difficulty in a river while on a family trip in Cumbria.

Dean Price, aged 32, was dragged underwater by currents while attempting to rescue seven-year-old daughter Delilah from the River Esk in Longtown.

While his daughter survived thanks to an off-duty firefighter, Mr Price disappeared, only to be tragically found in the early hours of the next day following an eight-hour search by emergency services. Kelly Price, wife of 11 years to

Mr Price, who lived in Willenhall Lane near Bloxwich, said: "He was the best dad in the world. He was a hero and he saved his child. He always put me and the children first. He was a number one husband."

Mrs Price, who is staying with relatives, in Great Wyrley, Staffordshire, said Delilah was now 'okay' after the ordeal. They had been staying at Hadrian's Camp near Carlisle, when the accident happened. The youngster was saved by part-time firefighter Geoff Maxwell, who heard the family screaming for help, while working on a house nearby.

He saw the little girl's head bob up in the water and dived in towards her.

Mr Maxwell said: "It was sheer luck that I touched her under the water."

"I grabbed her hair and managed to swim to the side but it was a hell of a struggle."

He said he quickly realised that the river was too deep for him to touch the bottom and push upwards. "I'm a terrible swimmer. I can't believe I found the energy. The mother was on the ledge about five yards away holding out her hand and I swam and swam. I don't know how I made it."

# Furore over flying the flag for Black Country



One of the organisers of Black Country Day, Steve Edwards with some of the flags

**WALSALL'S** former Mayor, Councillor Pete Smith has hit back at claims this week, that the Black Country flag is 'offensive and insensitive'.

It follows political activist Patrick Vernon's comments, before Black Country Day which took place on Tuesday, that the chains emblem on the flag were a 'disturbing' image.

Mr Vernon claimed that it harked back to an industry that profited from the transatlantic slave trade and colonial rule in Africa.

Councillor Smith said: "Chainmaking in the Black Country is world famous. It is part of our history. There may be parts of our history we are not proud of but to say that the chains are offensive is far-fetched by my reckoning."



Patrick Vernon

Thousands of people celebrated the region's history over the weekend in The Black Country Festival and Cradley Heath's Women's Chainmakers' Festival.

Mr Vernon, who grew up in All Saints, Wolverhampton, and is a former London Labour councillor, said the Black Country had shied away from addressing the role its industries played in slavery and that community leaders were trying to 'pretend it never happened'.

"The chain being used as a symbol in the flag is insensitive," he said. "Shackles and manacles that were made by chainmakers in the Black Country were used to incarcerate slaves in North America, on plantations and in colonial Africa."

"The chain is not a swastika or a Confederate flag but it is offensive. While I am in support of the festival and think it is a great idea, the Black Country has never done anything to acknowledge that slavery was key to its economic rise."

"This is not political correctness, it is the truth. You can't pick and choose bits of your history, they are interlinked. There needs to be a re-interpretation and leaders cannot pretend it never happened."

The flag was designed two years ago by schoolgirl Gracie Sheppard, now aged 14, who attends Redhill Secondary School in Stourbridge in a competition by the Black Country Living Museum.

The chains represent its chainmaking and industrial heritage while the red, and black colours on the flag are a reference to the description of the Black Country by Elihu Burritt, who said it was 'black by day and red by night'. The white cone shape represents the area's glass-making industry.

# Thief in U-turn over raid haul

A PROLIFIC criminal who raided a flat of more than £2,200 worth of goods was stopped by police after being spotted driving a car stolen from the property, a court heard.

Paul Nash, aged 34, took the keys to the £20,000 Ford vehicle parked outside the flat in Spring Lane in Pelsall, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. But after driving up the M6 toward Stoke, the court heard how Nash, who has previous convictions for 90 separate offences, turned back deciding

to take the vehicle back along with stolen items.

He was arrested after being spotted by a police helicopter overhead, following a row with another motorist whom he had undercut while entering the Keele Service Station in Staffordshire.

Mr Garry Cook, prosecuting, said that three cameras worth a total of £1,034 and a £1,200 watch were stolen along with a wallet containing bank cards and an unspecified amount of money.

The keys to the car was also

taken from the property as was a money box belonging to the seven-year-old girl.

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending Nash, said: "Much of his offending occurred many years ago and he is very disappointed to have fallen back into his old ways of acquisitive crime. After committing the burglary he thought better of what he had done."

Nash, of Radford Drive, Sheffield, pleaded guilty to theft of the car and burglary. He was jailed for 18 months by Judge Peter Barrie.

# PM urged to keep pledge over support for families

THE Prime Minister has been urged to deliver on his commitment to ensure there is support for the families of the Tunisia beach shooting victims.

Valerie Vaz, MP for Walsall South, asked David Cameron about the atrocity during his weekly question time and was told a ministerial committee would be set up.

The Labour MP said: "I welcome the Prime Minister's commitment to establish a ministerial committee to ensure that support for victims is co-ordinated across Government. As the Prime Minister noted, a high level of support has been provided for survivors of the London bombings 10 years ago and it is crucial that this support is matched for the bereaved families and the survivors of the attack in Tunisia."

Miss Vaz has tabled an Early Day Motion in the Commons for MPs to convey their thanks to the club.

The motion reads: "That this House commends Walsall Football Club for organising and holding the national one minute's silence held at Bescot Stadium on Friday 3 July; recognises that the people of Walsall and Saddlers fans were able remember the three generations of fans Joel Richards, Adrian Evans and Patrick Evans who were killed in the terrorist attack in Sousse, whose families were present at Bescot Stadium; congratulates the club on its plans to place memorial bricks dedicated to Joel Richards, Adrian Evans and Patrick Evans on the 125 Sign which commemorates the Club's 125th anniversary."

# Deaf charity is chosen by store

A CANNOCK supermarket has named Walsall Deaf People's Centre as its charity for the year. The charity earned the most votes by customers at Sainsbury's Orbital Way store.

The Walsall Deaf People's Centre organises activities to meet the mission of improving the lives of Deaf people in Walsall and the surrounding areas.

To celebrate the announcement, a launch day will take place at the Cannock Store on July 31. Shoppers will get the chance to meet representatives from the charity.

Walsall Deaf People's Centre manager Zana Collins, said: "We're absolutely thrilled to be chosen as the Sainsbury's Cannock Local Charity of Year. We can't wait to work together and raise the profile of our charity over the next year."

# Festival to boost village's church

ST Paul's Church in Coven, near Wolverhampton, is holding a fundraising festival this weekend. The event runs until Sunday and features a flower festival, hog roast, cheese and wine tasting and garden party. All proceeds go towards church funds.

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# Jobs boost as parcel firm's plan approved

A MAJOR Black Country employer has won approval to expand its base – providing a jobs boost for the area.

Parcel delivery firm Yodel, which has a main sorting centre on the Willenhall and Darlaston border, will open up more HGV parking spaces on land next to the site.

The extra 105 spaces, given the nod by Walsall Council, will enable the firm to grow by allowing more deliveries from the site.

The spaces will be on land between Owen Road and Willenhall Road.

Plans lodged with the council said: “The extension of the HGV parking area will safeguard the facility for the long term and will allow for future expansion by providing a net gain in trailer spaces which will in turn will allow for future job growth as demand increases.”

Following approval of the proposals, Councillor Garry Perry, chairman of the planning committee, said: “As a committee we always welcome expansions of any businesses across the borough.

“It will also provide additional parking provision for the business.

“I think that given they have done that in consultation with the neighbouring site it is going to be of benefit to them.”

He also welcomed any jobs the expansion would bring, adding: “Job creation is important. Any business, if it just creates one job, it is one less unemployed person in Walsall.”

# Sports link firm raises £6k-plus

A BLACK Country firm, which sends professional sports people into schools, has raised more than £6,000 for charity. Sports Plus Scheme Ltd, based in Aldridge, has presented a cheque of £6,135 to Sandwell Hospital's children's ward at a charity football match, held at Baggies' ground The Hawthorns.

Teams were made up from a mix of local headteachers and the Sports Plus Scheme Sports Professionals.

Former West Bromwich Albion star Richard Sneekes was head coach for the home team whilst executive head teacher Andy Leivers, of Grove Vale Primary managed the away team.

Nearly 3,000 spectators, made up of families, pupils and staff from the local primary schools attended.

# Saddling up for organised rides

TWO organised bike rides will set off from Walsall and Staffordshire this weekend. CTC Walsall is inviting cyclists to join a ride leaving from Chasewater Sailing Club, at 9.30am on Saturday. On Sunday, a group will set off from Anchor Road, Aldridge, at 9.30am.

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# This name is a keeper, for estate



Lucas Mokabo with his estate name sign

A youngster has created his own little bit of Walsall history by coming up with a name for a new housing estate.

The 412-home development in Goscote, Blakenall will now be known as ‘Waters Keep’ courtesy of Lucas Mokabo. The name chosen by the Year 3 pupil from Goldsmith Primary Academy in Harden was selected as the winner from more than 250 student entries from local schools who entered a competition set up by developers Keepmoat.

Lucas said: “I’m so pleased to have won the competition and proud that

the name I created is being used across the development.

“I liked Waters Keep because it was near to water and I’d love to live in one of the new houses one day.”

Along with the knowledge that future residents will be living in an estate he named, Lucas was also rewarded with a £35 love2shop voucher as well as £100 worth of vouchers for his school. The Goscote Lane regeneration project will see 23 hectares of land across seven sites in Blakenall developed into housing.

A total of 412 homes are planned

as part of the Waters Keep development on land off Shakespeare Crescent, Keats Road and Chaucer Road, Harden. A further 350 properties will also be developed in the Goscote area meaning an £88 million investment overall. Some parts of the land have been derelict for a decade.

The project has been driven by Walsall Borough Council and Walsall Housing Group which own the plots.

Maxine Conway, from Keepmoat added: “We chose Lucas’ name because we felt it best described all the things we are looking to provide

# Points system to help prioritise roadworks

AN innovative points system will be introduced to decide which roads get priority for improvements around Walsall, it has emerged.

Communities and councillors will be able to prioritise routes which need work by allocating points to projects.

The scheme, which is expected to come into force in the next financial year, will allow councillors on area panel committees across the borough to influence the rankings of a string of projects.

Each ward will be handed 50 points and the points can then be awarded to one scheme or divided across a number of schemes.

The number of points will help decide the scheme's relative priority and how quickly footway improvements and carriageway resurfacing and patching work is carried out.

Area partnerships will have to provide council officers with their scoring by January each year. It comes as cash-strapped Walsall Council needs to save £86 million over four years.

The schemes which feature in the list of projects include carriageway resurfacing in Wednesbury Road and Goscote Lane, Coalpool.

## Earmarked

In Aldridge, potential schemes include carriageway resurfacing work in Chester Road, Leighwood Road and Foley Road West.

Some of the roads earmarked for carriageway or footway improvements in Brownhills, which could be awarded points by the area panels, include Lindon Road, Occupation Road and Parkwood Close.

Meanwhile, Bentley Road South in Darlaston could benefit from another footway resurfacing scheme while locations in Leamore which could see work carried out include Stephenson Avenue and Stowe Street.

In Willenhall, among the road schemes listed include those in Noose Lane, King Street and The Keyway.

In a report to Aldridge and Beacon Area Panel group manager of highways and environment John Roseblade said: “With available budgets it will not be possible to undertake all these maintenance schemes in the next three years hence the need for a robust and transparent prioritisation system.”

It was originally intended to incorporate area panel scores into this year's maintenance programme, but the report said the process was not straightforward.



Top dancers of Dance City in Aldridge, from left, Sydney Garratt, aged nine, Emily Scott, 12, and Emmie Youster, 10, all with something to celebrate

# Talented trio are dancing for joy

A TRIO of young dancers from Dance City in Aldridge have proved their talent after passing milestone achievements.

Nine-year-old Sydney Garratt and Emmie Youster, aged 10, have both passed auditions for sought-after places at ballet dance schools in Birmingham.

Fellow student, 12-year-old Emily Scott, was awarded the highest mark for a tap solo at a dance festival in Birmingham.

Sydney, from Shire Oak, will attend the Midlands Independent Dance Associate Scheme (MIDAS) while Emmie, from Pelsall, won a place at the Elmhurst School for Dance. Emily, from Aldridge, achieved her success at the Dance Festival in Birmingham.

The girls are among 120 youngsters at the dance school in Walsall Wood Road where they learn ballet, tap, Irish, street, modern jazz, disco and other styles

Their teacher Tracey Dicken, who is principal of the school, was extremely proud of her pupils. “They come to classes three of four times a week so they really deserve their successes.”

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Walk to Wembley raises £7,000-plus

A MAN who walked 138 miles from Walsall to Wembley to see the Saddlers play in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final has managed to raise £7,600 for charity.

Graeme Brookes set off from the Banks's Stadium on March 14 and arrived at Wembley eight days later to watch the loss against Bristol City. He took on the challenge in memory of his grandfather, Ronald, who followed the Saddlers for 83 years despite being both deaf and blind. Mr Brookes, aged 31, had hoped to raise £5,000 for the Walsall Society for the Blind.

## £1m costs of growing school

MORE than £1 million is to be ploughed into the expansion of a school in Willenhall to cope with increased numbers.

A 20 place unit is being earmarked for the Shepwell Centre to cater for up 20 extra secondary aged pupils.

Shepwell provides education for young people who are unable to attend mainstream schools in the borough.

A report to the council's Schools Forum said £1m of funding has been agreed and grant funding has been applied for to make up the rest of the costs.

## Viva Brazil set to open in Brum

A BRAZILIAN restaurant chain is to open a new site in Birmingham city centre. Viva Brazil will be in Bennetts Hill on the corner site that was previously occupied by Indian restaurant Isaacs and, before that, Thai Orchid.

The new 200-seat steak house restaurant and bar on two floors represents a £1.2 million investment and is creating 40 jobs. Viva Brazil first opened in Liverpool in September 2010 and has since opened in Glasgow and Cardiff.

## Ramblers offering a choice of walk events

THE Walsall group of the ramblers will be offering a choice of two walks this weekend. On Saturday, there will be a walk in Sutton Park, with people asked to meet at Oak Park Leisure Centre at 1.30pm and car-share.

The four-mile walk will involve looking out for the wild ponies and other wildlife.

On Sunday, walkers will set off on a nine-mile hike from the leisure centre at 8.30am. For more information call 0121 353 9360 or 01922 642597.

## Restaurants hope

THE developer behind plans for a £5 million revamp of one of the Black Country's biggest retail parks says they have already had interest from national restaurant groups.

As part of the overhaul of Wednesbury's Gallagher Retail Park, three new restaurants will be built.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



JANE Peyton, elected as Britain's first "Beer Sommelier of the Year," says beer often goes better with food than wine but is sneered at by wine snobs. Maybe it is. But if you want a truly horrified hush to descend on a smart restaurant, try uttering these words: "A pint of cider, please."

WOMEN footballers, having proved themselves as valiant as the men, should surely be called lions rather than lionesses. After all, feminine terms such as actress, lady doctor, aviatrix and editrix are now regarded as patronising. But it seems I am a voice in the wilderness. The Times, no less, refers to our women's soccer team as "England Glory Girls." How charmingly 1930s.

THERE was a time when I would have raged against any plans to turn Sundays into just another working day. You don't have to be a churchgoer, or even vaguely religious, to believe that one day of the week should be slower, quieter and somehow special. But the latest Whitehall plans for extended shopping hours are just another chipping-away at an institution which is virtually dead already. So bring it on. Let's have 24/7 Sunday shopping. And how long will it before Sunday becomes a normal working day for everyone and our children will ask, as the dowager duchess asked in Downton Abbey: "What is a weekend?"

AS Dallas Campbell continues his trips into potholes in Britain Beneath Your Feet (BBC1) I was reminded of the intrepid pot-holer on Countryfile (BBC1) who assured



us that few people suffer from claustrophobia when potholing. That, my friend, is because we claustrophobics keep well away from pot-holes. Call me windy but of

all the ways a man can choose to die, being stuck by your shoulders 200ft below ground and hearing the water rising must be the worst.

MORE encounters with the B-word. A reader has a text book from his apprenticeship as a printing compositor. It tells us: "The Half title, or bastard title as it is sometimes termed, is always a right hand page and consists usually of the name or title of the book."

LITTLE blue leather sandals, short socks, red romper shorts and white blouse. Good to see, from Princess Charlotte's christening photographs, that Prince George is being raised just like any other little boy. Any other little boy of 1953, that is.

A MAN has been fined £220 and banned from keeping a pet after swallowing a live goldfish. The RSPCA alleged that the fish would have suffered distress for several minutes. Fair enough, but are the rich still enjoying live oysters?

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Growing Religion with nightclub

A NIGHTCLUB in Walsall town centre is being expanded to offer a second venue, creating up to 20 new jobs, it has been announced.

Religion, the former WSI nightclub on Bridge Street, opened in April. But work is also underway by bosses to open a second venue downstairs, with its opening targeted for the end of August.

Nick Parkinson, general manager,

said: "The new club will create between 18 to 20 jobs, we'll be hiring bar staff, security, DJs and cleaners. "We're aiming to open on August Bank Holiday weekend, we've got seven weeks to go so we have got our work cut out. We managed to do it for Religion before though so I'm sure we will be able to do it again. "We've spent so much time building the place and we haven't been

able to come up with a name so we're asking people to come up with their own ideas."

Since WSI closed on March 14, a huge roof terrace has been created with the upstairs room built with a large stage area. Other rooms have been redecorated, a DJ booth has been added and the toilets have been refurbished.

Video walls and new lighting have

also been installed, along with lasers and confetti cannons.

Mr Parkinson added: "Everything is in place downstairs, the fabric of the building is there. All of the work has gone in, all the structural, major stuff has been done. "Now we're doing the decorations and lighting to get it up to standard and just putting the finishing touches to it."

# Bridge rebuild set to go on for months more

By Craig Hughes

**A PROJECT to rebuild a bridge to allow the multi-million pound electrification of a railway line will take months longer than planned, it has emerged.**

The North Street bridge in Walsall town centre was expected to reopen at the end of spring as part of the £30m scheme to speed up trains on the Chase Line.

But Network Rail has confirmed the bridge route, which has been closed from the start of the year, will be blocked off until September. The bridge needs to be rebuilt to accommodate overhead power lines for the electrification of the line between Walsall and Rugeley Trent Valley. Some initial initial work started last autumn although North Street was able to reopen again briefly over Christmas, helping motorists during the busy festive period.

## Shortcut

However, it has remained shut since January even though pedestrian access has been maintained. The route is well used by traffic going to the Butts, town centre and as a shortcut to Goscoke.

Network Rail spokesman Jon Crampton said: "Owing to diverting utilities over the bridge taking longer than expected, North Street bridge will be closed until September while the remainder of the work is completed. We have been in regular contact with the local authority regarding this and apologise for any inconvenience caused."

A new bridge built in Broad Lane, Essington, as part of the project was also hit by delays last year. Work was due to be finished in the March, was then pushed back several times until June.

There are further plans to rebuild a third bridge at Park Street in Walsall town centre, due to start later this year. The overall electrification project between Walsall and Rugeley Trent Valley is earmarked for completion by the end of 2017.

## School in a hat-trick of successes



Front, from left, Zubayda Begum, aged 11 and Cydon Walker, 11, and PE teacher Luke Mills with pupils

YOUNG athletes from a Walsall junior school are celebrating a hat-trick of success.

For three years in a row, Blue Coat CE Junior athletics team have won the Walsall and Black Country finals, which involves hundreds of schools in the region.

Although the make-up of the team may have changed as the members grow older and move onto secondary school, there has been no drop in sporting prowess.

Members of the current team were part of the highly successful lower junior team two years ago. They have continued this through to the upper junior team.

Luke Mills, head of PE at the school, praised the youngsters for the level of achievement. He said: "Members of this multi-talented team have shown their ath-

letic potential throughout their time at the school. This year, the team were again classed as the best of their age range in the Black Country completing a hat-trick of Black Country Athletics titles in a row of which the children should be very proud.

"The underlying theme of their tenure was their competitive nature, utter determination, unique abilities and raw power which formed a magnificent team that the school will never forget."

Anthony Orlik, executive head of the Infant and Junior School Federation, added he was delighted with the efforts of the youngsters and staff.

"We are immensely proud that we have won this prestigious competition for the third year in a row," he said.

# Wildlife to take off with festival due at opening

A FESTIVAL of wildlife will greet visitors arriving to mark the reopening of a RSPB centre five years after a devastating fire.

Final preparations are being made to the new centre being created at the RSPB Sandwell Valley site ready for its official opening.

Building work has been completed on the £400,000 centre, called Nature's Reach, ahead of a opening event on August 2.

Finishing touches are being made to outside areas and the centre's car park to mark the culmination of the long-awaited project.

Vandals set fire to the previous centre on the site, off Tanhouse Avenue, Hamstead, Great Barr, back in 2010 forcing staff to work out of a temporary hut.

Now the new centre will be open for the celebration event from 11am to 4pm. The wildlife festival features family-friendly activities from pond dipping, mini-beast hunting to den building. All wildlife activities are free and there will be festive refreshments available to purchase.

RSPB spokesman Alex Sharrod, says the event will be a way of re-introducing people to activities held at the centre. "Discover a magical underwater world while pond dipping, hunt for mini beasts under logs, build your own fortress in our den-building area and turn sleuth along the hidden sculpture trail," he said.

The celebration is a milestone in the development of RSPB Sandwell Valley.

# Trust named as leading employer

A MENTAL health trust has been named as one of the top employers in healthcare. Dudley and Walsall Mental Health NHS Trust has been praised by the Health Service Journal and Nursing Times.

The list recognises NHS organisations that have worked hard to create a positive atmosphere. It uses data compiled from the most recent NHS Staff Survey. This is the second time that the trust has made the top employers list, being one of only five mental health trusts from the West Midlands region to receive the accolade this year.

Chairman Danielle Oum said: "We are extremely proud of our staff, who are our most important asset, and the role they play in ensuring that we deliver high quality patient care."

# Head for the beach in West Bromwich

A BEACH will be created at a West Bromwich shopping centre this month, to raise funds for YMCA and Sandwell hospital. The beach, along with deckchairs and bucket and spades, will arrive at the New Square Shopping Centre from July 18 to 27.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl gets head stuck in railings

A TWO-YEAR-OLD girl was rescued by firefighters after getting her head stuck in railings at a school playground. The child got her head stuck in railings at Leighwood School, Aldridge, at around 10.55am last Wednesday.

Fire crews from Aldridge used specialist equipment to spread the bars so the toddler could escape. It is thought the 999 call was made by a teacher at the school and the youngster was trapped for around five minutes.

Watch commander Mick Goode said: "She was fine when we released her."

Village project on road to start

A MAJOR project to improve a main road in Pelsall will start on Sunday. The work along the A4124 Lichfield Road will be carried out by South Staffs Water and Walsall Council.

Water mains will be replaced up until September 6. Once that is done, the road will then be resurfaced.

Lichfield Road will be closed between the junctions of Norton Road and Apex Road during the works.

South Staffs Water spokeswoman Caroline Maddox said: "These are two major schemes which will benefit the area in different ways."

Blakemore move to create jobs

WILLENHALL'S AF Blakemore is to expand its Spar estate and create new jobs. The firm is able to expand due to a new partnership with Euro Garages, which is the UK's fastest growing forecourt operator with 180 sites across the UK.

So far the company has started servicing eight Euro Garage sites, but by the end of the year this number is expected to increase to 103, making them Blakemore Trade Partners' largest national account customer.

One-way route due over summer break

A BUSY route in Walsall will turn one-way for six-weeks as multi-million pound road improvements are carried out.

Motorists are being warned of delays as Bescot Road will be shut to northbound traffic from this Sunday to September 1. A diversion route will be in place along Wallows Lane, Broadway West, West Bromwich Street and Wednesbury Road.

It comes as part of a £26 million improvement scheme.

Express charity funds

MORE than 80 Lifestyle Express stores have raised £2,640 for Make-A-Wish UK.

Lifestyle Express stores across the Willenhall-based Blakemore Wholesale estate sold tickets for a grand prize raffle to boost the children's charity funds.

No action on school over parking



Hydesville Tower School, in Walsall

WALSALL Council is expected to take no further action against a private school in the town after settling a parking dispute, a new report has revealed.

Hydesville Tower School was given six months to find suitable parking for parents of nursery children after the car park at the nearby Park Tavern pub was bulldozed.

Walsall Council had warned it would not be allowed to take on nursery pupils in September if it failed to address the issues. The school in Broadway North had proposed

30 spaces on land between Lower Rushall Street and Dog Kennel Lane.

However, at a Walsall Council planning committee meeting, councillors decided it did not satisfy requirements.

A unanimous decision was made by the members to pursue an injunction on new nursery place admissions, unless agreed alternative parking is found.

However, a new report to the planning committee, said the terms of the lease for the site have changed to allow parents to park there after the

school outlines a new travel plan – including shuttle buses to and from the new car park.

The report said: "Consequently the council will not pursue injunctive proceedings against the school to prevent a new intake of nursery pupils in September 2015."

It said the school had also provided a statement confirming how they intend to operate the car park, which includes the use of school mini buses to shuttle nursery children between the car park and the school at the beginning and the end of the day.

Quarry firm boss in £70,000 court payout

A QUARRY firm boss whose firm fraudulently claimed Government grants, benefitting from £1,000, and forged test certificates has been handed a £70,000 court bill.

WCL Ltd, which has a quarry at Muckley Corner, near Brownhills, and a head office in Burntwood, received £272,000 from Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) – a Government-sponsored charity, to buy equipment using bogus invoices.

The company also deceived South Staffordshire Water and civil engineers Fitzgerald with forged test certificates for recycled aggregates, Stafford Crown Court heard.

One of its directors, Simon Winner, aged 43, of Four Oaks Road, Sutton Coldfield, admitted three charges of fraud. Mr Gordon Aspden, prosecuting, said recycled products were in demand by public bodies because of their 'green credentials' and WRAP was set up to assist.

They awarded grants for equipment already purchased by companies like WCL, but it broke the rules by submitting false invoices for equipment not yet purchased. WCL did use the grants, a total of £272,500, to buy equipment.

Contractors

Mr Aspden said: "The purpose of the defendant's conduct was to resolve temporary cash-flow issues WCL was experiencing. In effect, short-term interest-free credit from WRAP."

The forged test certificates were discovered after WCL supplied recycled aggregates to civil contractors Fitzgerald, who were repairing a section of the A460 at Featherstone.

In March 2012, samples from the road programme were taken and failed tests.

The test certificates provided by WCL, supposedly carried out by an independent firm called ESG, were examined and found to be false. ESG had not carried out any tests for WCL in 2011 or 2012. In September 2011, South Staffordshire Water were also supplied with forged test certificates by WCL for aggregate worth more than £18,000.

WCL's offices were searched in November 2012 where a computer used to create the forged test certificates was found. Mr Aspden said that when Winner was questioned about it and the forgeries, his response was no comment. Winner was fined £20,000, ordered to pay £50,000 costs and Judge Mark Eades also made a £10,000 confiscation order under the proceeds of crime act.

Watch out for the brick-nicker



Tracy Arnold, at the Victorian path constantly being targeted by thieves

WATCH out for the Darlaston Brick Nicker. That's what townsfolk are being urged after a thief is targeting a public footpath, stealing more than 50 blue Victorian bricks during three raids in as many months.

As a result, there were calls for the footpath – the small alleyway at the top end of Dorsett Road – to be closed. The latest incident happened last Tuesday morning at about 3am and follows two similar incidents where dozens of the bricks were stolen.

But this time it appears the perpetrator/s may have been caught in their attempts to steal them again as they left the bricks piled up on the side, leaving a gaping hole in the alleyway.

As well as the thefts, the small alleyway has been hit with anti-social behaviour problems in recent years with youngsters hanging around the area causing a nuisance.

Tracy Arnold, whose business PR Arnolds is located right next to the alleyway, said she and residents were getting fed up of the constant trouble: "It appears the Darlaston Brick Nicker has tried to strike again. It must cost Walsall Council a lot of money each time they have to resurface the alleyway. We feel if it was closed down then that would be the best solution for us all."

Councillor Doug James, who represents the Darlaston South ward, said he was checking the legality of such a proposal.

Mother who got caught on eBay in court order

A MOTHER from the Black Country sold thousands of pounds worth of clothing which had been stolen in a garage burglary.

Nicola Wright was caught when the items' owner spotted them advertised on eBay and called police, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Wright, aged 43, of Mulberry Road, Mossley, Walsall, admitted handling stolen goods and possession of criminal property at an earlier hearing.

Judge Helen Hughes sentenced her to a 12-month community order and 150 hours' unpaid work. She was also ordered to pay £1,200 costs.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, said her guilty plea was accepted on the basis that £415 found by officers at her home was proceeds from her operation. He said: "The circumstances are that on December 31, 2014 a Mr Mackintosh was subject to a break-in. There was a burglary at a garage detached from his property.

"He was working for a clothing company and acquired the items for £2,000, but was planning to sell them on with a mark up on top that he hoped would generate £6,000."

Mr Jones said CCTV footage was taken by police from the burglary.

He added: "CCTV footage shows three offenders leaving in a vehicle."

Mr Shiva Mira, defence barrister, said Wright had purchased the items for £650 from an unnamed man in a van in the street near her home.

He said she did suspect that there was something wrong with the clothes.

Dog mess fines may be double

FINES for dog walkers who fail to clean up after their pets will double to £100, under new plans.

Labour councillors in Walsall are calling for a public consultation to be held with a view to introducing new powers to target irresponsible dog owners.

Councillors Ian Robertson, Diane Coughlan, Rose Burley, Lee Jeavons, Tina Jukes, Eileen Russell and Keith Chambers were expected to table a notice of motion at a meeting of the full council on Monday.

Currently in Walsall, a fixed penalty of £50 can be issued as an alternative to prosecution.

In 2014/15, Walsall Council received 117 complaints about dog fouling and 182 requests for dog fouling signs.

Half a ton up for bikers club

A WALSALL bikers club is holding its 50th reunion party on Saturday. Past and present members of Kavern Motor Cycle Club are invited to the Farmers Boy pub in Barns Lane, Rushall, on July 18 from 7.30pm.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Our flag is all about celebrating industries

THERE are a lot of things about The Beatles' song Penny Lane which I find offensive. The turgid, sentimental lyrics. The dreary, depressing tune. The slack-jawed, disbelief which inevitably follows the confession that I don't actually like The Beatles.

Look, they're just a pop group, like any other, and I don't like them, OK?

However, no reasonable person would ever dream of criticising the song because it celebrates a street which was named after a slave trader. The link is just too tenuous.

Which brings us to Patrick Vernon, an anti-racism campaigner who for the most bizarre of reasons, has taken offence at the Black Country flag.

Mr Vernon, who grew up in Wolverhampton before moving to the Big Smoke, finds the image of a chain in the Black Country flag "offensive", saying it has connotations with the slave trade.

Oh, gerrover yerself, Mr Vernon, yo'm a very saft mon.

The Black Country flag has nothing to do with slavery, it is about celebrating the industries which put this region at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution.

Mr Vernon says the Black Country glosses over its role in the slave trade. But slavery in Britain ended in 1807, and it seems absurd that Mr Vernon expects us to feel apologetic for the fact that in another century people in other countries used our chain for nefarious purposes.

Perhaps Mr Vernon has been in London for too long.

Down in the great metropolis, they're obsessed with diversity and multiculturalism, emphasising what makes us different.

But in the Black Country, there is no diversity, and only one culture. Black, white, rich or poor, it doh matter, because under the skin we'm all Black Country – we're all links in the Black Country chain, and that bond is far stronger than anything that might divide us.

Hope yo 'ad a bostlin' Black Country Day.

■■■

A FEW weeks ago, I wrote about the "knock-off early" culture which seems to affect many of our retailers, where staff take it upon themselves to shut their doors several minutes before closing time to avoid any risk that some of them might have to work a few minutes over.

Well here's a turn-up for the books.

On Monday, having just returned from a weekend away, it was more in hope than expectation that I battled the rush-hour traffic to get to my local tyre centre before closing time.

I didn't seriously expect anybody to help, but one of the fitters volunteered to work over. Arron Page, of Kingswinford Tyres, yo'm a proper Black Country bloke.



Melody when she appeared on The Apprentice



Melody speaking at the New European Awards



Melody Hossaini on a visit to City College, Plymouth

# How Melody tuned into career success

She may have been fired from The Apprentice but this social entrepreneur has just won top award, writes Marion Brennan

**WHEN Melody Hossaini was asked what job title she wanted to pop up on screen under her name when she appeared on the 2011 series of The Apprentice, she replied 'social entrepreneur'.**

"The producer laughed," she recalls. But the former Great Wyrley High School student insisted on the tagline, becoming the show's first – and only – social entrepreneur, the title given to people who apply commercial strategies to make social improvements.

She was knocked out just before the final but not before making a big impact. Bold, confident and good-looking, she became famous for her inspirational quote 'Don't tell me the sky's the limit when there are footprints on the moon' – which one fan had tattooed on his arm.

## Responsible

Lord Sugar branded her 'ruthless' and 'a tiger' so it was perhaps odd that she did not channel her undoubted business acumen into more obvious money-spinning schemes.

But she says: "Social enterprises are doing well. New statistics have just been published that show they are now doing better than the commercial business model, contributing a lot to the economy and creating many jobs for people.

"The world is moving that way, we are being more responsible consumers. We like to buy in a way that helps someone and there are lots of examples of little pockets of success."

Melody, now 30, is in the news again after being named Europe's Most Influential Woman of 2015 at a ceremony in Brussels.

The awards, under the patronage of the European Parliament, recognise the contri-



Melody goes into schools and colleges to help prepare students for the business world

butions of Europeans with a migrant background. Meeting the qualifying criteria was no problem after being born in war-torn Iran and escaping with her family to Sweden before arriving in South Staffordshire at the age of 13 with her mother and sister.

It was while sitting at her bedroom desk at the family's Station Road home that she spied an advert in Just 17 magazine for young people wanted as community ambassadors.

It led to 11 years of volunteering, including two and a half years serving on the Youth Parliament where she ran climate change campaigns and went to 10 Downing Street to speak to Tony Blair about the war in Iraq.

She says: "We were shaking things up, it

wasn't just me. It was an incredible time. I'm still friends with these people."

She went on to set up the successful social enterprise, InspirEngage International, in 2009 with the aim of training people to succeed by giving back.

She goes into schools and colleges, including Great Wyrley High, to help prepare students for the world of business and work, trains vulnerable women to become economically active through social enterprise and guides corporations to better engage with their local communities.

She said: "This award means a lot to me because of what it represents. So much negative stuff is said about immigrants and asylum

seekers, and I was both of those things.

"The public thinks of them as anonymous people, but they are people like me who have worked hard to give back to their communities. I want to shift people's mindsets about immigrants.

"I'd like them to think that perhaps they shouldn't take a blanket approach.

"Being an immigrant never leaves you, and that's not to say that I don't feel I belong here. I'm married now with a nine-month-old son and a home in Warwickshire. I'm very much settled, but being an immigrant is so much a part of my make-up."

The law graduate, who speaks five languages, describes herself as an 'accidental entrepreneur' who avoided business studies at school. She entered the business arena only as a means of making a living out of her real interest, 'making a difference'.

Her passion for her work has increased since the birth of her son Kian, although she is learning the art of balance, she says.

"I work from home a lot so I can spend as much time as possible with him. I cook and put Kian to bed.

## Judge

"We find a way because I love my job and I think it will help my son by immersing him in the world I work in. I can't wait for his life to be enriched by the job I do. I'll take him with me as soon as he can walk."

She and businessman Claude Littner, who is taking over from Nick Hewer as one of Lord Sugar's screen sidekicks, were recently judges on a social enterprise challenge, she says.

"They are filming the next series at the moment. He will be a fitting successor to Nick. Despite his screen reputation, he is kind and friendly, a wonderful spirit."

The keen blogger, who regularly reports on the programme for a national newspaper, is looking forward to its return.

She looks back on her time on The Apprentice as a valuable experience and, no, she doesn't cringe when she is reminded of the infamous 'footsteps' quote which she suggests was 'overused' on the show.

She says: "At that point all those years ago that saying inspired me, and you take inspiration where you find it."

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# Lack of ring-fencing detrimental to care

MANY congratulations to Monzur Miah and the E&S for actively bringing his fight for 'adequate financial support' for disabled people to the attention of a wider public.

As a 'Campaigner for Better Care' in this country, I have highlighted this problem and in particular, the fact that the present Government are vigorously promoting the devolution of financial control for care and other budgets, out to local authorities.

Unfortunately, as Monzur highlighted, this has resulted in a total lack of 'ring fencing' for both social

and domiciliary care, together with many other things, thus enabling LAs to utilize money allocated by central government in any way that they see fit. There is evidence to strongly suggest that at least some of the finances announced by central government as being for use within social/community care, is being allocated by LAs for anything but!

This begs the question, are such announcements purely 'political headline grabbers' as Government openly states that it has no control over how such money is spent.

It is common knowledge that care in this country is in crisis and this lack of ring fencing of care budgets is exacerbating this situation even further and I am currently in communication with The Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP (Min of State for Community and Social Care) relating to this and other issues relating to care quality.

Now I have every reason to believe that Alistair Burt is a fair and reasonable man however, his hands are tied by current Government policy.

A KYTE  
Great Wyrley

## EU is not giving us fair return

BEFORE criticising those of us who have been studying the European Union for years, I suggest D E James takes the time to check on facts before making such wild statements as: 'almost all our contributions come back in the form of grants'.

Sadly, D E James has fallen for the old EU con trick where it looks as if we benefit from EU membership. When it comes to the EU, the UK along with Germany, is one of the EU's largest donors.

To see how the con works just take a look at one of the EU blue plaques which states: 'This project has been part funded by the European Union'. The EU gives us only 50 per cent towards these projects with British taxpayers putting the rest. To add insult to injury, the EU only returns to us, on average, 50 per cent of our total contributions, not 100 per cent as claimed by D E James.

DEREK BENNETT  
Acting Chairman, UKIP

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Walsall Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### EMAIL

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## Driving us bananas about Rhodes' view

I AM a fan of Peter Rhodes' column but his criticism of a fine imposed on a woman peeling a banana while in her car has prompted this letter. I live next to a section of dual carriageway on the A5 and I along with other residents experience regular bullying when we indicate to drive off the road.

One day a woman followed me for some 200 yards without once looking up - she was busy texting. I was forced to lean on my horn to get her to pay attention. We are often blasted by drivers even when the overtaking lane is clear. One resident has had a car follow her onto the drive. The number of 'hands-free' drivers is quite amazing, women applying make-up while still moving forward, drivers texting, holding an ear (earache or mobile phone?), eating and drinking, dressing and undressing. The other morning a woman suddenly stopped her car in the middle of the dual carriageway and proceeded to frantically dive around under the dash - think she must have dropped a lighted cigarette.

The A5 is busier than its ever been. I would like to say thank you to the lorry drivers who allow residents to leave their drives during busy periods.

S JACKSON  
Brownhills

## Lights were a good way to mark day

I AM informed that the newly installed and improved lights on the trees on the 'Brownhills Miner' traffic island were to be switched on for testing and were due to remain on all night on July 14, after the unfortunate mix-up at the beginning of the year.

This is a happy coincidence as some it was Black Country Day.

The lights were appropriate and have been flying the flag in memory of two wonderful and much-loved Black Country 'gels'; my mother born at Kingswinford and my late wife born at Pensnett, Dudley.

Prior to successive boundary changes large sections of the Black Country were once part of the county of Stafford having a unique and very special identity, dialect and well-defined boundaries. I do hope that this will not change in the light of the current empire building proposals.

DOUGLAS BIRCH MBE  
Walsall

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## LETTERS EXTRA

### Cutting corners is proving very costly

THE costs of corner cutting and council cock-ups... Binmen are still not putting their bins back properly, leaving them scattered about, blocking footpaths, and even where people are displaying disability certificates bins are left open, and having to be put back by the elderly.

Grass cutters, if they miss parts out, they will, leaving patches of long grass ready to catch any rubbish blowing in the wind.

Pothole repairs - why do they leave small potholes to grow bigger, or as in Whetstone Lane and Red House Lane, repairs are being done, but right next to those are others being left? This means men and machines are being brought back time and time again.

The cost? What about the

various staff who have to be taken on, just to handle the complaints?

The political merry-go-round over the community alarms - Walsall Council promised in 2000, in the formal discussion document, to leave the costs as they were. Then later they abandoned the aged and those with difficulties, making them pay.

Recently, even those exempt were told they would have to pay. Now with a change in party politics, the idea has been scrapped. Just how much money has been wasted on this 'stop, go' fiasco? This lack of pride and passion by those old enough to know better does little, or nothing, as lessons in behaviour to be learned by our youngsters.

**RAY HAMMOND**  
Aldridge

### Women need to kick on

THE USA women's football team won \$2m. The German men got \$35m for winning in Brazil. The Women's World Cup in Canada has been a great success with over 1.2 million in attendance. Money it seems is both the problem and solution. The Women's World Cup didn't receive the same investment from FIFA as the men's game did but they won't until FIFA generates larger revenues from advertisers and business. Let's hope the women's game is given every opportunity to develop across the UK and the world.

**COUNCILLOR DOUG JAMES**  
Walsall

### Warning over pot plants

WILL you alert people who visit Bloxwich cemetery not to put pot plants on their loved one's stone as someone lower than the lowest is stealing them. Every week one has been stolen from my husband's stone. It's heart-breaking enough to visit, but then to find your loved one's flowers are missing makes it worse.

**K WEBB**, Walsall

## New system firing on all cylinders



Transport museum chairman, Martin Fisher, celebrates a £5,400 grant from Whg to update their fire alarm system

AN historic transport museum has secured its vehicles in Walsall thanks to cash grant of more than £5,000. Aston Manor Road Transport Museum, based in Northgate, Aldridge, has a collection of vintage vehicles dating back to the 1920s.

It was awarded £5,400 from Walsall Housing Group which has gone toward a much-needed fire alarm system to help protect the historic motors. The museum houses a wide range of commercial vehicles including coaches, buses and delivery vans from a range of decades.

The funding for the site in Shenstone Drive came from the housing group's Local Neighbourhood Fund.

Transport museum chairman Martin Fisher said: "Having a fire alarm fitted to make sure our vehicles weren't at risk was a real priority for us."

Volunteers at the museum have helped restore a variety of vehicles including an old London bus which appeared on TV. The London Routemaster RM506 received a transformation and was shown on The Game, a British Cold War spy thriller, screened on BBC Two.

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# Genius group jumping ahead with IQ



From left, pupils Aaron Soomal, Amy Beecroft, Madison James, Ryan Mills, Jakub Rayski and Jakob Bannister

MEET the Black Country's new generation of genius students who are officially brainier than Professor Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein.

Amy Beecroft, Madison James, Aaron Soomal, Ryan Mills, Jakub Rayski, all aged 12, and Jakob Bannister, 11 – who are all in the same class at school – scored more than 160 in their IQ tests. It is a feat not even achieved by the likes of Hawking or Einstein. All the children, who are in the same Year 7 group at Barr Beacon School in Aldridge, achieved a score of 162, apart from Jakob who scored 160.

The national average score for the

test is just 100. As a result, the six youngsters have now been invited to join high IQ society Mensa after sitting the test. Ryan, who lives in Great Barr, said life being cleverer than Einstein was 'really cool'. "I was really surprised at what score I got," he said.

"I thought it would be much lower but it feels really good to be smarter than Einstein. I was so excited to get the result I did.

"It feels incredible and my parents are very proud too.

"Now when I go into class I get called a nerd but I'm cleverer than Einstein so it feels so good to be called

that. Not many people can say that – it's actually really cool."

Madison who lives in Streetly said: "I was really happy with my result, especially as my sister is at a grammar school. I feel really powerful being smarter than my sister. When my mum found out she didn't think it was even me that got the result so she phoned up just to double check.

"But she's really happy and proud of me – now my entire family and friends know. I really want to go to Oxford to study sociology. This has given me the confidence to get to where I want to be."

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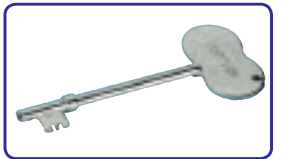
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# Little Jimmy on track to be roaring success

AN eight-year-old mini-moto rider from the Black Country – who started riding at the age of just six – is quickly becoming an internet sensation Jimmy Lee Parker, a pupil at Short Heath Junior School in Wilenhall now has more than 1,200 Facebook fans after posting photographs and videos from competitions across the country.

The fearless rider races youngsters as old as 13 in the British Mini Bikes Championship, travelling with his mother Joanne, 37, and father Lee, 40, across the UK to get to events.

Joanne said: "He's currently second on the Championship grid, he's doing really well." Jimmy first began riding two years ago when his father bought him his first mini-moto. He has been racing competitively for the past 12 months.

## Training

Joanne said: "He has been a riding a bike since he was two. He had a KTM and we were thinking of getting him into motocross then his dad bought him a mini-moto and he went to Ace Karting in Walsall. He liked mini-moto as soon as he started and when we saw the British Mini Bikes Championship competition come up we entered him and he's doing really well."

Joanne said Jimmy's school had been really supportive, adding: "All the trophies that he wins he takes to school and does a bit of a show and tell and one of his teachers has said that he will try to come and watch one of his races. Racing is his passion."

The British Mini Bikes championship kicked off in March at Daventry's Whilton Mill, with the season coming to an end on October 25 at Redlodge, Suffolk. There are 10 individual races,



Jimmy Lee kitted out for racing



Jimmy on track: Andy W Photography



Jimmy Lee Parker, aged eight, is a mini-moto marvel

of which he has taken part in five so far – taking first place in the last one.

The winner will be the rider who has amassed the most points over the season. His next race will be at Lydd, Kent in August. The family is now looking to find sponsorship for Jimmy. Search Jimmy Lee Parker on Facebook.

The requirements for British Mini Bikes' mini-moto junior 4.2 novice

class are that riders are aged between six and 13, with their bike having a maximum engine capability of 40cc.

Riders must wear full leather protection with body armour and back protection inserts, good quality protective gloves, full length race boots and a suitable helmet. Full details on British Mini Bikes can be found at [www.britishminibikes.com](http://www.britishminibikes.com)

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# Caring Ramnik's a star city citizen

AN exemplary student from Willenhall, with a passion for volunteer work, has been named Wolverhampton's Young Citizen of the Year.

Ramnik Uppal, aged 18, beat off stiff competition to land the award at a ceremony at the Mayor's Parlour.

The award, which is organised by Wolverhampton's Rotary clubs, recognises the achievements of young people who have 'gone the extra mile' in serving the city's communities.

Wolverhampton Girls' High head girl Ramnik impressed judges with her ability to mix outstanding academic achievement with selfless volunteer work.

Over the past year she has mentored younger pupils, represented the National Citizen's Service, took part in a campaign to raise awareness about

a hospice and has regularly volunteered at both a dementia care home and a Barnardo's store.

Ramnik, from Willenhall, said: "The other entrants have done so much for the city, it's a massive surprise and an honour for me to win the award."

"I am going to do as much as I can to support the people of Wolverhampton."

There were two runners up on the night.

Heath Park School sixth former Kashmire Hawker, 17, was praised by judges for his efforts to champion the rights of young people with disabilities.

And the competition's youngest ever entrant, eight-year-old Alfie Baugh, from Tettenhall, was recognised for raising hundreds of pounds for charity and being an ambassador for his neighbourhood.



Young Citizen of the Year, Ramnik Uppal, of Willenhall

# Ormiston Academy's joy over 'good' rating

STAFF at Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy say they are 'delighted' after its latest Ofsted inspection rated the academy as good on all fronts, including achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, leadership and management, behaviour and safety of pupils and sixth form provision.

Following a two-day visit in May, inspectors commented on the 'positive and supportive climate for learning' throughout the academy and commended the 'visionary' leadership provided by the principal and senior vice principal, which has 'transformed' the academy. The report went on to describe the full leadership team as "brave, determined and successful in raising achievement and improving teaching."

The report noted that the academy is additionally well-supported at a high level: "The sponsor, Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT), its Progress and Interim Executive Boards and leaders at all levels are securing significant improvements to students' achievement and teachers' performance."

Student comments also featured in the report, which quoted: "We respect others, even if they hold different views, have particular needs to help them or live differently to ourselves," stated one very mature and respon-

sible Key Stage 4 pupil." Another student is quoted as saying: "This is a great school, the staff have turned my life around."

Principal Paula Ward said: "We are delighted with this report. The achievements of our students are incredibly important to us, and this has been reflected in the feedback we've received. Students are well cared for here, with excellent access to a variety of extra-curricular activities, and achievement is steadily rising."

## Leadership

"We have very high expectations for students and staff and this report shows how wonderfully they have responded to this. We aim to turn around many more of our students' lives on our journey to outstanding."

Professor Toby Salt, CEO of the academy's sponsor, Ormiston Academies Trust added: "I am pleased Ofsted has recognised the leadership and support from OAT, and it has rightly highlighted the strong leadership in place at Sheffield, which is having a very positive effect on the education it offers young people in Pelsall."

"The academy provides an inspiring learning environment for its students, and it is moving forward with purpose and determination."

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# School pride back at Rivers Academy

## COMMERCIAL FEATURE

**THE** head teacher of Rivers Primary Academy, part of Windsor Academy Trust, has spoken of her pride after its recent Ofsted inspection rated it as 'Good'.

In 2012 the school, previously known as Green Rock Primary School, was judged as 'inadequate', but since converting to academy status in November 2013 it has not looked back since.

Jane King said turning the school around had been a 'huge team effort' and said she hoped the school could push on towards becoming outstanding.

In its report, Ofsted praised the school for its leadership, the behaviour of the children and quality of teaching.

The school was also awarded outstanding for its safety.

### Laughter

"We were really pleased that they said teaching across the school is good. They said 'staff plan effectively to capture children's imagination' and 'there are lots of smiles and laughter from all children as they enjoy their learning'."

Ofsted had further praise, commenting that 'leaders have created a welcoming and happy atmosphere where pupils flourish' and 'that pupils show high levels of respect'.

Also 'the pupils 'take great care and are proud of the learning environment'.



Head teacher Jane King is seen with Rivers Primary Academy pupils

Mrs King added: "We put it all down to sheer hard work and determination to reinstate a feeling of pride back in the school."

"It's a brilliant feeling and will mean so much to our whole school community. I am incredibly proud to be leading such a good school."

"The Ofsted report told me what I already knew - that the staff and children of this school work very hard to make it such a lovely place to come every day."

"The school has a lovely atmosphere and everyone wants to achieve their best."

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## Latest view of new leisure centre



The new Oak Park Leisure Centre, Walsall Wood, which is starting to take shape as part of the £24.3m project A NEW multi-million pound leisure centre being built in Walsall Wood is starting to take shape.

There is now only a year to go until the scheduled completion of the new leisure centre at Oak Park. The new centre will include a 25-metre eight lane swimming pool, teaching and learner pool, 100 station fitness suite, six court sports hall, two squash courts, dance studio, sauna and steam, cafe and artificial turf pitch.

Construction on the site has seen around 550 tons of steel work erected – the equivalent in weight of 65 African

elephants. Oak Park along with the Bloxwich centre are being rebuilt as part of a £24.3 million project.

Walsall's leisure chief, Councillor Anthony Harris said it was fantastic to see the project developing at such a rapid pace. He added: "I'm incredibly proud to have been involved in this project from the outset and to see the new centre take shape is very exciting."

"This form of leisure project will make a significant difference to the lives of local residents and will make a top class sporting centre available to the whole community."

## Thief took metal in barrow

A MAN who nonchalantly walked into a yard with his wheelbarrow and stole radiators and copper piping has been fined.

Glen Wells assumed air conditioning units left on the ground near the Saddlers Shopping Centre in Walsall were there for the taking when he targeted them around 7pm on June 22, a court heard.

CCTV captured the 30-year-old walking under the barriers with the

wheelbarrow on Bradford Street and then leaving again with the components he had forced off the units. He later sold on the parts for £30. But the units actually belonged to Walsall company JC Construction which had carried out work to remove them.

The firm would have been able to scrap the parts for around £100. Wells, from Gospel Lane in Acocks Green, claimed he did not know he was committing a crime and admitted going back to look for more loot when he was questioned by police.

But he later pleaded guilty to theft. He was handed a conditional discharge at Walsall Magistrates Court on

Thursday and ordered to pay £370 in total - £100 in compensation, prosecution costs of £105, court costs of £150 and a victim surcharge of £15.

Mr Vaugh Whistance, defending, said Wells had been struggling financially since he lost his job as a mechanic after he received a three-year drink-driving ban. The solicitor said: "In this area you do see vehicles being driven around fairly regularly collecting scrap metal. People put out washing machines and things knowing someone is going to come passed and pick it up and cash it in. But this metal was going to be scrapped by the construction company."

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# High speed chase driver is jailed for 18 months

A **BANNED** driver who led police on a terrifying 25-minute chase, hitting speeds of 85mph in a 30mph zone and driving on the wrong side of the road, has been locked up.

Dilip Patel hurtled through Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Willenhall and Essington before being arrested while hiding in bushes in Featherstone.

It came just four years after he was jailed for an almost carbon-copy offence – a high-speed police chase after crashing into a mother and her two young children while over the drink-drive limit.

Patel, of Cannock Road, Park Village, Wolverhampton, carried out his latest crime in the early hours of May 26. The 30-year-old tearaway careered over speed bumps and went round traffic islands in the wrong direction at 45mph before the pursuit swept towards Essington. At one stage, the Peugeot was driven on the wrong side of the road, overtook a lorry at 65mph and went through red lights before speeding down Essington Road at 90mph, where the limit is 50mph.

## Accelerated

Mr Robert Edwards, prosecuting at Wolverhampton Crown Court, said Patel also accelerated over a cross-roads without stopping and went in the wrong direction down a one-way street into Willenhall town centre at 45mph before the pursuit swept towards Essington. At one stage, the Peugeot was driven on the wrong side of the road, overtook a lorry at 65mph and went through red lights before speeding down Essington Road at 90mph, where the limit is 50mph.

A stinger designed to puncture the tyres was deployed in Northcote Lane but Patel continued until the front tyres disintegrated in Brookhouse Lane, Featherstone.

The fast food worker then made a run for it and concealed himself in bushes until a police helicopter helped officers uncover his hiding place.

The end of the high-speed chase was captured on CCTV filmed both from



Jailed for 18 months: Dilip Patel



Patel is arrested by officers



Police close in on Patel in Brookhouse Lane, Featherstone, on May 26

the dashboard camera of a pursuing police car and the helicopter.

It shows the disintegration of the tyres and smoke coming from the Peugeot as it came to a halt. Patel pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving while disqualified, failing to stop, having no insurance and possession of cannabis. He was jailed for 18 months and banned from driving for four years by Judge Martin Walsh.

The judge told him: "You have a poor record of motoring offences and this was an appalling piece of driving.

You declined to stop for police and was involved in a protracted pursuit during which you travelled at 85mph in a 30mph limit."

Sgt Matt Cooper said he was pleased justice had been done.

He said: "The high speed chase may have happened at a time when most people would have been tucked up in bed, but that does not make it any less reckless. This is a great sentence following some very stupid decisions made by Mr Patel, which could have ended quite differently."

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Perks' shop, King Street, prior to decimalisation in February 1971



King Street. All photos from 'Shops and Clubs of Darlaston'



Staff at Littlewoods, from the 1950s, where Betty Dixon once had a part-time job

# Service with a smile – town's shops for workforce at the heart of industry

THE vicinity of Darlaston Green once boasted one of the greatest concentrations of industrial activity in the world.

So many thousands of people worked at this pulsating gathering of great factories that when the bells sounded for the end of the day it was as if a tide of humanity poured down Richards Street, along Willenhall Road and up Lower Green.

A town of less than 25,000 people even at its peak, yet its manufacturers impacted powerfully on the global market.

By 1911 more than 6,000 people were making nuts and bolts in the Black Country, and the great majority of them were now employed in Darlaston.

Names like GKN and Charles Richards resonated with manufacturing excellence, but Darlaston did not rely only on nuts and bolt makers like these for its prosperity. Another company pushed itself into the

## MEMORY LANE

Report by Carl Chinn

limelight through its innovation, design and quality products.

It was Rubery Owen. In the 1880s the brothers J T and T W Rubery started a factory in Booth Street for making light steel roof work, fencing, gates and the occasional bridge. Later, T W left the business, and in 1893 his brother went into partnership with Alfred Ernest Owen. In 1910, Owen became sole owner and with his acute vision he added an aviation department, so allowing Rubery Owen to supply small aircraft components in the First World War.

And it was as a powerhouse of industry that Darlaston became one of the most prosperous working-class towns in England. That prosperity was reflected in the small but bustling town centre packed with shops. These and others elsewhere in Darlaston are the subject of an exciting new book called 'Shops and Clubs of Darlaston

throughout the Years'. A Heritage Lottery Fund project, it has been compiled by that unflinching digger and delver into the past of the town he loves so well – Tony Highfield.

His latest publication emphasises: "Darlaston once had a thriving shopping centre, full of busy shops, providing all kinds of products and services. 'The town had a wonderful, vibrant atmosphere and was often full of happy shoppers, sometimes passing the time of day with friends and neighbours in King Street, Church Street, High Street or Pinfold Street.'"

Among the contributors are Brenda and John Evans, who have many fond memories of Bedworth's. They write: "Leonard Bedworth started up his business with a horse and cart from a warehouse on Darlaston Road next door to the Kings Arms pub which like every business at the time was hard work. Then he opened the shops in King Street which was a fruit and vegetable shop and a wet fish shop opposite the Lion pub. Then they moved to the supermarket that used to belong to Littlewoods. Over the

road, there was a flower shop that was run by Cynthia Bedworth, Leonard's daughter.

"His sons Ken and Barry helped out in the shops. I started working at Bedworth's in 1958 aged 16 years old. I worked in the grocery when I started and I left Bedworth's 34 years later. I was a manageress due to being promoted over time. John Evans also worked for Bedworth's."

Betty Dixon, née Horne, also has wonderful memories of Darlaston's shops. She recalls: "As a young 14-year-old girl back in 1954, I was allowed to have a part-time job and as my sister Brenda already had one in Littlewoods, Darlaston, I applied there where I was accepted but was only allowed to work four hours per week due to my age."

'Shops and Clubs of Darlaston' is launched tomorrow at Darlaston All Active, 75 Willenhall Road, Darlaston WS10 8JG. Entry is £2.50 on the door for a 7pm start and the book will be available free, with a film show, buffet and entertainment included. The book is then on sale at Darlaston Library at £2. Call 0121 568 6144.



Bedworth's, King Street – one of Darlaston's thriving shops

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## Tiegan's family full of prom promise



Tiegan, with her mum Zoe, and a prom dress at the ready A TEENAGE girl who missed out on a high school prom due to illness may yet get the chance to wear a ballgown and dance the night away. The family of Tiegan Brownhill, aged 16, are raising money to hold their own prom later this year.

Tiegan, of Clothier Street, Willenhall, has had a chronic stomach condition all of her life, undergoing major surgery two years ago and being home-schooled ever since. As a result, she has never had the chance to attend a school prom.

Now, mother Zoe, 35, and father Wayne, 42, are hoping to raise enough money to hold a prom in December to coincide with her 17th birthday celebrations. Zoe said: "We have been negotiating places and dates for the prom. We are contacting hotels to try and get it on a Saturday in December near her birthday. We want it to be a really nice venue for her. She can have her hair and nails done with dress fittings, I want her to have all that, she deserves it."

Tiegan has undergone several major operations and faced a lot of complications, with her recovery period going on longer than expected. In the last four years, Tiegan has visited the operation theatre eight times. She is living in constant pain and has only been able to visit her friends a handful of times over the past couple of years.

"Her friends have been so supportive, saying she deserves a prom more than anyone," added Zoe. "She is absolutely brave and an inspiration to us all."

To make a donation visiting Tiegan's fundraising page at [www.gofundme.com/y2az9vc](http://www.gofundme.com/y2az9vc)

## Take-up of free meals at schools on increase

MORE than 10,000 pupils across Walsall are receiving free school meals following a rise in take-up across the borough, figures have shown.

More than a quarter of young people are now taking up the free school meal as part of the service run by Walsall Council, rising from 19 per cent in 2005 to 26 per cent in 2014.

Schools receive funding from the Government for pupils who are eligible for free school meals.

The pupil premium 2014/15 for primary age pupils is £1,300 and £935 for secondary school pupils. The pupil premium generates more than £13.3 million for Walsall schools.

It comes as there has been a national drive to provide meals in schools, in a bid to drive down obesity levels across the country. It has seen a concerted effort to provide meals for four to seven year-olds.

The Free School Meal (FSM) team at Walsall Council currently works with 114 schools, academies and free schools. There are 10,281 pupils who are in receipt of free school meals.

By Craig Hughes

Head of service Sharon Tait said: "Our purpose is to support schools to deliver a better educational experience to its pupils by ensuring that all children that are entitled to free school meals are made aware of that entitlement. We will make the process of applying for FSM as simple as possible and we will work with schools to deliver the service in an efficient and effective way.

"This link also enables the FSM team to advise schools of urgent changes so that no child goes without a meal. This approach has contributed to the improved take-up of FSM from 19 per cent in 2005 to 26 per cent in 2014. The national average is 20 per cent."

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# Children's important early start

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## COMMERCIAL FEATURE

### FREE early learning – when can your child start?

Did you know that some two-year-olds and all three and four-year-olds are able to have free early learning at a variety of settings across Walsall Borough?

Free early learning can be really beneficial to children.

It can help them develop, learn, make friends, become more confident and most importantly, have fun!

As well as helping them develop now, it can also make a difference to them in the future, as research has shown, children who have a good quality early years education are more likely to achieve higher levels at school.

Some parents worry that their children are too young for childcare or a 'formal' learning.

However they don't get this learning sitting behind desks!

Children will learn through practical play and exploring.

What they do at the childcare

setting will depend on their interests and likes, so there is lots of variety and every child is treated as an individual.

As well as helping children, free early learning gives parents and carers time to spend with other children, undertake training, work or anything else that they may not normally have time for.

Children can go to day nurseries, childminders, playgroups, schools, so there will be something that suits your family's needs.

### Credit

If you have a two-year-old then they might be able to start getting their free early years learning before they turn three.

Get in touch with Walsall Families Information Service if your family are getting:

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- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support



### Youngsters learn through practical play and exploring

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To help you understand exactly what is on offer, how your family accesses their place and giving people the chance to talk through any concerns – there are qualified, friendly staff at Walsall FIS on hand to take your phone calls and emails.

You can also pop into the Central Children's Library to have a talk face-to-face.

Walsall FIS are open Tuesday – Saturday.

You can call them on 01922 653383 or to find out more online, simply log onto [www.mywalsall.org/fis](http://www.mywalsall.org/fis)



## FREE early learning: When can your child start?

Some 2 year olds, and all 3 and 4 year olds can have up to 15 hours each week of free early learning. To find out when your child can start contact Walsall FIS.

Call 01922 653383 Online [www.mywalsall.org/fis](http://www.mywalsall.org/fis)



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Aliens Love Underpants on stage – Page 21



## He got da blues

Lil' Jimmy Reed – Page 21

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## Middle of Nowhere Festival



**Fri - Sun**  
**Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge**  
 This festival of rock, blues and folk music promises to be a fun event for the whole family. The line-up is led by Bon Jovi tribute band Bon Giovi (pictured).  
 Visit [www.monmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.monmusicfestival.co.uk)

## Neil Diamond



**Saturday, 8pm**  
**Genting Arena, B'ham**  
 Legendary songwriter and singer Neil Diamond plays in Birmingham tomorrow night. This show follows a performance in the city last weekend which wowed fans.  
 Visit [www.gentingarena.co.uk](http://www.gentingarena.co.uk)

## Camel: Greatest Hits



**Thursday, 8pm**  
**Civic Hall, W'ton**  
 Original member Andy Latimer will be joined by long time band member, Col-in Bass and Denis Clement (drums), Guy LeBlanc (keyboards) to celebrate seminal rockers Camel.  
 Visit [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

## Alex Horne



**Friday, 8pm**  
**Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford**  
 Nominated for Best Show at the 2014 Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Awards, and Winner of the Chortle Award for Innovation 2015, Alex Horne brings his show to Stafford.  
[www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk)

## FESTIVALS

**Middle of Nowhere Festival**  
 Fri - Sun, £8 - £40  
 Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge.  
 Call 07817 691352

## ROCK & POP

**Neil Diamond**  
 Sat at 8pm, £73.83 - £96.33  
 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
 Call 0121 780 4141

**Jean Genie**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £15  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Gehtika plus Destroyed Beyond**  
 Sat at 7pm, £6.60  
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1HP.  
 Call 01902 552106

**Fred Zeppelin + Quo Motion**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £10 - £12  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Morpheus Rising + Hi-On Maiden**  
 Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £12  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**The Smyths: The Smiths Tribute**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £10  
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.  
 Call 01384 397177

**Jake Quickenden**  
 Sat at 7pm, £15  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.  
 Call 0121 622 8250

**Camel**  
 Thu at 8pm, £27.50 - £33  
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

**Fell Out Boy: Fall Out Boy Tribute**  
 Thu at 7pm, £6  
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

**Bars And Melody**  
 Wed at 8pm, £20  
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

**Nicholas McDonald**  
 Mon at 7pm - 10pm, £18 - £25  
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
 Call 0121 643 0428

**The Hot Heads**  
 Sat - Sun at 8pm - 2am, £6  
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
 Call 0844 870 0000

**Duran Duran Experience: Duran Duran Tribute**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £8  
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.  
 Call 01384 397177

**Beres Hammond & Bunny Wailer**  
 Sat at 9pm, £35 - £37.50  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.  
 Call 0121 622 8250

**Larry Miller**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £12  
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.  
 Call 01384 397177

## FOLK & ACOUSTIC

**Three Blind Mice**  
 Sat at 12am,  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Traditional Music Sessions**  
 Sun at 8pm,  
 Prince Of Wales, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8EE.

**Irish Session**  
 Wed at 8pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Common Folk: Singers' Night**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £1  
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall, WS3 4BP.  
 Call 01922 682018

**Country Music Nights**  
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2  
 Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.  
 Call 01543 491570

**Bev Pegg**  
 Fri at 8.30pm, £6 - £7  
 Ashwood Marina Ltd, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford, DY6 0AQ.  
 Call 01384 560462

**Gren Bartley**  
 Sat at 8pm, £8 - £10  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

## JAZZ & BLUES

**Lil' Jimmy Reed Band**  
 Wed at 7.30pm, £14 - £15  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Jazzline presents...Three Step Manoeuvre**  
 Tue, 7.30pm  
 The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.  
 Call 0121 200 3030

**The Foundations**  
 Thu, 7.30pm  
 The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.  
 Call 0121 200 3030

**Jazzlines Free Gigs: Sam Braysheer Quartet**  
 Friday, 5pm. Free  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 780 3333

**Jazz In The Courtyard**  
 Sun at 4.30pm, Free  
 Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.  
 Call 01902 716055

## CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

**Andre Rieu's 2015 Maastricht Concert Screening**  
 Sat at 7pm, £16 - £18  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT.**  
 Sat at 7pm, £16 - £18  
 Call 01785 619080

**A Song for all Seasons**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £10  
 Beckminster Methodist Church, Birches Barn Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 7BQ.  
 Call 01902 344910

**RSC Live: Merchant of Venice**  
 Wed at 7pm,  
 Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station Street, Birmingham, B5 4DY.  
 Call 0121 643 7879

**Wed at 7pm,**  
 Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Artrix, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.  
 Call 01902 716055

**Wed at 7pm,**  
 Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Artrix, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**CBSO Summer Concert**  
 Thursday, 7.30pm, £12.50 - £44  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 780 3333

**Let's Celebrate: Sutton Coldfield Choirs**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £8 - £11  
 Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.  
 Call 0121 331 5901

## THEATRE

**Barnum**  
 Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £19.50 - £48.50  
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.  
 Call 0844 338 5000

**Aliens Love Underpants**  
 Wed at 2pm, 2.30pm, Thu at 11am, 2pm, £10.50 - £13.50  
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.  
 Call 01902 573320

**An Evening of Dirty Dancing**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £18 - £24.90  
 Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7627

**The Jungle Book**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £10 - £12  
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**Cyrano de Bergerac**  
 Tue, Wed at 7pm - 9.30pm, £6 - £12.50  
 Selly Manor Museum, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1UB. Call 0121 472 0199

**Girls Like That**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2pm, £10.50  
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.  
 Call 0121 643 5858

**Entertaining Angels: Lichfield Players**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £9 - £12  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
 Call 01543 412121

**Much Ado About Nothing**  
 Sun at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, £12 - £15  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Oddsocks: Twelfth Night**  
 Sat at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, £12 - £50  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Pongo's Party**  
 Sun at 11am, 1.30pm, £10.50 - £36  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
 Call 01543 412121

**Forever In Blue Jeans**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £19.50  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
 Call 01543 412121

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £14  
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.  
 Call 0121 643 5858

## COMEDY

**Comedy Carousel**  
 Thu at 7pm, £5 - £19.50  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.  
 Call 0871 472 0400

**The Best in Live Stand-Up Comedy**  
 Fri, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.50  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.  
 Call 0871 472 0400

**Alex Horne**  
 Fri at 8pm, £15.50  
 Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT.  
 Call 01785 619080

## OPEN MICS

**Sunday Shenanigans - Open Mic night**  
 Sun at 8pm - 12pm, Free  
 Moochers, Stourbridge, DY8 1PH. Call 01384 671141

**Open Mic Night**  
 Mon at 8.30pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

## ART GALLERIES

**Takehisa Kosugi**  
 Wed, Thu at 11am - 6pm, Free  
 Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

**St Ives Artists**  
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free  
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.  
 Call 01922 654400

**Birmingham People**  
 Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Free  
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.  
 Call 0121 303 1966

**Pop in Space**  
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free  
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.  
 Call 01902 552055

**Georgian Enamels**  
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 5pm, Free  
 Bantock House, Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ.  
 Call 01902 552195

**The Clive Beardsmore Gift**  
 Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free  
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

**Happy Birthday, Scottish National Gallery Of Modern Art!**  
 Tue at 10.15am - 3.30pm, Wed at 10.15am - 3.30pm, Thu at 10.15am - 3.30pm, £1.50  
 Birmingham Back to Backs, 55-63 Hurst Street / 50-54 Inge Street, Birmingham, B5 4TE.  
 Call 0121 666 7671

## OTHER EVENTS

**Murder Mystery Dinner**  
 Sat at 7.15pm, £32.95  
 The Shugborough Estate, near Stafford, ST17 0XB.  
 Call 01889 881388

**Antiques For Everyone**  
 Thu at 11am - 5pm, £12  
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
 Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Close encounter of the hilarious kind



Hang onto your underpants... the aliens are on the way to entertain family audiences at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

IN space there are no underpants, and that's a problem because Aliens Love Underpants... of every shape and size.

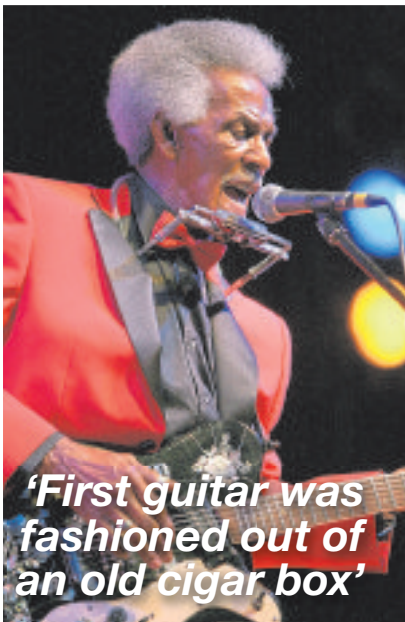
The zany and hilarious tale based on the best-selling children's book by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort has been turned into a colourful stage production with stunning effects,

madcap action and original music. And lots and lots of aliens.

This fresh and funny family show, adapted and directed by Adam Bampton-Smith, has been described as a close encounter of the most entertaining kind and will be staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Wednesday to Friday, July 22 to 24.

Aliens Love Underpants is performed at 2 and 4.30pm on Wednesday, 11am and 2pm Thursday and at 11am only on the Friday.

Tickets are £12.50, available from the website [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk) or by calling the Lichfield Street venue's box office on 01902 429212... just hang onto your pants!



## From bayou to Bilston

FROM shot-gun shack to festival main stage, the prodigious talents of Lil' Jimmy Reed have taken him a long way from the banks of the Mississippi river.

One of the last surviving performers of the classic Louisiana down-home blues era, Lil' Jimmy has recently been inducted into the prestigious Blues Hall of Fame.

After taking several countries in Europe by storm over the past 12 months, with many sell-out shows and standing ovations, not bad for someone whose first guitar was fashioned out of an old cigar box and learned to play by ear.

The bluesman is coming to Bilston to perform at the Robin 2 on Wednesday, July 22.

His first guitar was fashioned out of an old cigar box. He learned to play by ear, never had a lesson in his life.

His real name is Leon Atkins and he acquired the name change after turning up to watch the popular blues singer Jimmy Reed; the management at the venue, seeing their man was too worse for wear with drink to put before an audience, and aware of Leon's growing reputation, thrust him onto the stage, introducing him as Lil' Jimmy Reed — and the name stuck!

The 76-year-old musician will be appearing with his band, featuring Bob Hall on boogie woogie piano, for this all-seated show at the Mount Pleasant venue.

Tickets are £14 in advance or £15 on the door, open from 7.30pm. Book at [www.therobin.co.uk](http://www.therobin.co.uk) or call the box office on 01902 401211.

### New Order returning with album and tour

NEW Order will play a gig at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall in November, after releasing their first album in ten years.

The Manchester group will take to the stage on November 24. Music Complete, released in September, will feature guests Brandon Flowers, Iggy Pop and Elly Jackson, of La Roux, and is their first album since Waiting for the Sirens Call in 2005.

Since then bass player Peter Hook left the group, which was formed by members of Joy Division after singer Ian Curtis's death in 1980. New Order hits include 1990 England World Cup anthem World in Motion, Regret and Blue Monday. Tickets are £41.25.

### Blue star Simon as a big bad wolf

A NEW family musical is trotting into Birmingham Town Hall before heading to London's West End.

Birmingham's own Blue and Strictly Come Dancing star Simon Webbe will play the big bad wolf in 3 Little Pigs, from the songwriting duo George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, at the Victoria Square venue for matinee performances from July 28 to August 2.

His co-stars include West End stars Leanne Jones from Hair-spray and Wolverhampton's Taofique Polarin from The Lion King. Tickets start at £12 plus fees from [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) or call 0121 345 0600.

### Camel make Civic classic rock oasis

KENT rock band Camel formed in 1971 and are still producing the goods more than 40 years on, albeit with only guitarist/vocalist Andy Latimer remaining from the original line-up.

Stalwarts of the Canterbury progressive rock scene, that also spawned Soft Machine, Caravan and Matching Mole, Camel created 14 studio albums. They won acclaim in 1974 with second album Mirage and 1975 concept album The Snow Goose.

They will be in concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Thursday, July 23. Tickets start at £27.50, from [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk) or by calling 0970 320 7000.

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The Crown at Wergs – perfect for eating outside or inside



Place to be – The Crown is worth dressing up for



A great way to start lunch – the beech mushrooms in a white wine and black garlic velouté



Choc pots – the caramel added a nice twist

# This real jewel in city's Crown offers a right royal tasty treat

**A BELLY full of good food, the sun beating down and a chilled glass of white wine in hand, it's fair to say I was one satisfied diner.**

There's something about the laid-back vibe, friendly atmosphere and great food at The Crown at Wergs in Wolverhampton, which keeps luring me back time after time.

And on my recent visit, once again I wasn't disappointed. We struck lucky, it was a blistering hot Sunday afternoon and so we chose to sit outside in the front garden.

And if the weather wasn't as gorgeous as it had been, we'd have been happy enough inside as the surroundings are classy and the decor modern.

It's the kind of place that you want to make an effort for – if you pop in, get a little

**By Emily Bridgewater**

dressed up – it's more than just a bog-standard pub and to be fair, I think The Crown knows it.

There is plenty of room inside, with luxurious furnishings, huge tables for large groups as well as places to sit at the bar. The Sunday papers were stacked up on our visit too (a nice touch), so we grabbed a couple and settled in with a Pinot Grigio and a pint of cider as we looked over the menus.

Normally I stick to the same foods whenever I eat out, but the menu at The Crown was so good I wanted to try something new.

I've also got a bit of a habit of looking at the dessert menu first, choosing what I want and then figuring out what else I can fit in so I'm not too full. Is it just me that does that? So deciding I was definitely having the apple tart. I could go all out with my

first two courses. The starters were difficult to choose from. My friend had already set his heart on the Beech mushrooms dish and I eventually went for the warm Melusine goat's cheese crotin with beetroot carpaccio and borage honey.

## Sweetness

The dish was summer on a plate, warm, gooey, sharp cheese was balanced by the beetroot, while the sweetness of the honey added a very pleasant extra. My friend's mushrooms arrived in a creamy and rich white wine and black garlic velouté. The mushrooms were tender, the poached egg was perfectly runny and yellow and the pistou brioche added a contrasting texture.

The main courses were as difficult to choose from as the starters, I could have devoured pretty much anything on the list. But in the end it was the duck that I went

with. The Gressingham duck leg confit was moist, the waffle was sweet and a surprising delight. Together with the sweet potato and honey roasted pineapple it made for a sugary dish, but I thought it was divine. My friend's fillet steak was a hunk of juicy meat and was a real quality cut which was cooked perfectly medium rare.

We were getting too full for dessert, but I'd already decided what I was having. The warm tarte aux pommes was exactly as I'd hoped it would be. Thinly sliced apples on wafer thin pastry and with the creamiest vanilla ice cream. My friend wolfed down his salted caramel chocolate pot – gooey chocolate, with the caramel subtly offsetting the taste of the chocolate. Our meal and drinks came to just over £80, which is not cheap, but for three excellent courses, a couple of glasses of wine and a cider, was worth every penny.



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- Three course Wedding Breakfast for 50
- Sparkling Wine Toast Drink for 50
- Extravagant Venue dressing that includes:
  - White Chair Covers with Organza Sash
  - White Table Linen
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CHOICE



**Boxing: Frampton Live (ITV, 9.45pm)**  
Carl Frampton v Alejandro Gonzalez Jr. Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the bout for the IBF World Super Bantamweight title, which takes place at Don Haskins Convention Centre in El Paso, Texas. Northern Irishman Frampton is making the second defence of the title he won last year, and will enter this fight as an overwhelming favourite against a Mexican opponent who has not faced anyone of known repute, and is fighting outside of his native country for just the second time as a professional. Commentary comes from Dave Farrar and Richie Woodhall, with analysis by David Haye and Duke McKenzie.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Golf: The Open Championship. **12.00** BBC News. Weather. **12.10** Golf: The Open Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces further coverage of the third day from the Old Course at St Andrews, where the 144th staging of the Major continues. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James, Frank Nobilo, Philip Parkin, Maureen Madill and Julian Tutt, and reports from Cara Robinson and Rishi Persad. **6.45** BBC News. **6.55** Regional Programme. **7.00** **Prized Apart.** The five remaining adventurers head to the Moroccan port of Essaouira, where challenges include filling a basket of sardines to a weight of 50kg – without using a measuring aid. Presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates. **8.05** **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up. Gaby Roslin introduces the Lotto and Thunderball draws and Will Young performs his new single. **8.55** **Casualty.** An unlikely hero leads the team to a crucial diagnosis and things get worse for Dylan as he struggles with his obsessive behaviour compulsions. **9.45** **The John Bishop Show.** The comedian introduces stand-up routines from Jo Caulfield, Andy Askins and Daniel Sloss, music from Andreea Triana and John Newman, and magic by Jason Byrne. Last in the series. **10.30** **BBC News.** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.50** **Not Going Out.** Lucy plans an anniversary party for her parents and is determined to keep it a secret. However, she makes the big mistake of telling Lee all the details. (R) **11.20** **Would I Lie to You?** Rob Brydon hosts the panel show, in which captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by Charles Dance, Stephen Mangan, Isy Suttie and Gok Wan. (R) **11.50** **Film: Seraphim Falls.** (2006) An injured Union soldier flees through a mountain wilderness pursued by a vengeful Confederate officer. Western thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan and Liam Neeson. **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

**7.05** **Film:** The Master of Ballantrae. (1953) **8.30** The Women's Football Show. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** The Box. (R) **11.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **12.00** Athletics. **1.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v France. **4.00** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **4.45** Escape to the Continent. **5.45** Flog It! (R) **6.45** **Golf: The Open Championship.** Hazel Irvine introduces live coverage of the closing stages of the third day from the Old Course at St Andrews, where the 144th staging of the Major continues. The players that featured at the top of the leaderboard at the halfway stage were the last to take to the course today, and all will be looking to produce a strong finish to their rounds and put themselves in contention for the title heading into tomorrow. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James, Frank Nobilo, Philip Parkin, Maureen Madill and Julian Tutt, and reports from Cara Robinson and Rishi Persad. **7.45** **Edwardian Farm.** The arrival of spring sees the daffodil harvest, a pony trek and the birth of new lambs – as well as a pleasant surprise for Ruth in the run-up to Mother's Day. (R) **8.45** **Dad's Army.** Sgt Wilson struggles to concentrate on his Home Guard duties when he has a personal problem to contend with. (R) **9.15** **Melyn Bragg: Winton to Westminster.** Documentary about the broadcaster's life. The film examines the influence of his working class roots in Cumbria on his 50-year career as one of Britain's foremost champions of the arts, presenting The South Bank Show, becoming a regular presence on Radio 4 and a prolific author. Featuring contributions from Judi Dench, Grayson Perry, Chris Evans and Will Self. **10.30** **Mock the Week.** Ed Byrne, Rob Beckett, Sara Pascoe, Romesh Ranganathan and Ed Gamble join Dara O Briain and Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy quiz show. (R) **11.05** **Film: Little Voice.** (1998) A shy woman with a talent for impersonating famous performers is exploited by a greedy promoter. Comedy drama, with Jane Horrocks and Michael Caine. **12.35** **Film:** Heavenly Creatures. (1994) **2.10** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **2.35** The Chase. (R) **3.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.15** Tipping Point. (R) **5.15** Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R) **6.00** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.15** **ITV News;** Weather. **6.30** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring children performing a stage version of The Exorcist, a stripping grandmother and death-defying teenagers. (R) **7.00** **Film: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2.** (2011) The young wizard continues his search for the artefacts containing fragments of the dark lord Voldemort's soul. Time is running out, as the evil sorcerer is aware of Harry's mission, and marshals his forces for a final, devastating attack on Harry and his friends at Hogwarts school. Conclusion of the fantasy saga, with Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson and Alan Rickman. **9.30** **ITV News;** Weather. **9.45** **Boxing: Frampton Live.** Carl Frampton v Alejandro Gonzalez Jr. Coverage of the bout for the IBF World Super Bantamweight title, which takes place at Don Haskins Convention Centre in El Paso, Texas. **11.00** **The Chase.** Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. (R) **12.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Ejector Seat. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.05** The Chester Deva Triathlon. **6.35** The Grid. **7.00** IPC World Swimming Championships 2015. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury, Newmarket and Market Rasen. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** **Come Dine with Me.** It is the turn of the former Apprentice contestant Stuart Baggs to host the final dinner party on the Isle of Man. He serves an American-inspired mezze with "Harvard mess". (R) **6.40** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Homes by the Sea.** Charlie Luxton explores coastal properties in Norfolk, including a former granary on the Blakeney quayside and a lighthouse in Winterton-on-Sea. Previously seen on More4.. **8.00** **Walking Through History: Victoria and Albert's Highland Fling.** Tony Robinson visits the Cairngorms National Park to discover how Queen Victoria and Prince Albert helped shape Scottish traditions and built their fantasy castle at Balmoral. (R) **9.00** **Film: The Watch.** (2012) Premieres. A small-town supermarket manager organises a neighbourhood watch group to patrol his community after a suspicious death, but finds the only recruits he can gather do not take the job seriously. They soon face a greater threat than crime when they uncover a secret alien invasion going on under their noses. Sci-fi comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill and Richard Aycock. **11.00** **Film: Scary Movie.** (2000) Terrified teenagers go to ridiculous lengths to avoid being slain by a serial killer in a ghost-like mask. Spoof horror, starring Anna Farris, Carmen Electra and Shannon Elizabeth. **12.45** The Last Leg. (R) **1.40** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.50** You Deserve This House. (R) **4.45** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.00** Fifteen to One. (R) **5.50** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.00** River Cottage Bites. (R) **6.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **7.00** The Morning Line. (R) **7.30** Frasier. (R) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **8.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **8.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.25** The Simpsons. (R) **9.55** The Simpsons. (R) **10.25** The Simpsons. (R) **10.55** Rude(ish) Tube. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Rude(ish) Tube. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. 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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Next, Channel 5, 10.55pm**  
A magician has the ability to see into the immediate future. When intelligence suggests a nuclear attack on Los Angeles is imminent, an FBI counter-terror agent sets out to persuade the gifted individual to use his psychic powers to avert disaster. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Julianne Moore, Jessica Biel and Thomas Kretschmann. (2007)

**TUESDAY**  
**Once, BBC1, 11.45pm**  
A Dublin vacuum cleaner repairman, with a sideline as a busker, and an immigrant Czech pianist struggling to support her family, discover they are kindred spirits and set out to record an album together. Romantic musical drama, starring Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova. (2006)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Audrey's Rain, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
An embittered woman who has given up all her own dreams for the sake of her younger siblings finds herself having to bear even more responsibility when her sister commits suicide and leaves her to raise two children. However, the return of a lost love rekindles her sense of hope. Drama, starring Jean Smart. (2003)



Cast Away, Friday, BBC1, 11.20pm

**THURSDAY**  
**Baby Sellers, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
The owner of an adoption agency maintains a respectable reputation, while secretly the children she provides to desperate clients are obtained by illegal means. A customs agent develops suspicions about the criminal network behind the trade in kidnapped infants and tries to expose the scandal. Crime drama, starring Jennifer Finnigan and Kirstie Alley. (2013)

**FRIDAY**  
**Cast Away, BBC1, 11.20pm**  
A manager for an American courier service has to fend for himself when a plane crash leaves him stranded alone on a desert island. Initially panicky, he overcomes his terror to survive for four years on his own before building a raft and setting off on an epic journey back home. Adventure drama, starring Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt. (2000)



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**E**rudite. Intellectual. The thinking woman's crumpet. A stripe-shirted guru who interviews the artistic heavyweights. Melvyn Bragg has been called everything in his time. But it's for something far more basic that he is likely to be remembered, long after the big names of literature have been ticked off his South Bank Show guest list. It's sex. Steamy sex. Raunchy sex. Read-behind-the-bike shed sex. All contained in the well-thumbed pages of his highly acclaimed novels which have been known to bring readers as well as the literary world out in a sweat. Remember A Time To Dance, which was serialised on television in 1992? Bragg could barely move for the letters which poured into his office from people who could identify with the steamy shenanigans going on between a middle-aged bank manager and his young lover. And what about Crystal Rooms? It made A Time To Dance seem like Mary Poppins. But Bragg, now 75, defends those 'meaty bits' by saying: "I write about sex because it's there to be written about." Adding with relish: "In other people's books it's often salacious or crude. In mine it involves mystery, awe and certain unidentifiable feelings..." But there's more, much more, to Melvyn Bragg's immeasurable talents than a handful of steamy sex scenes. Three films, a couple of musicals, a best-selling biography of Richard Burton, several more novels, shows on both radio and TV... need he go on? But Melvyn isn't one to brag (sorry). He doesn't need to. The results of his prolific workload are there for everyone to see, enjoy, and comment on. Yes, even snigger behind the bike sheds. And by all accounts there's plenty more on the way. "If you ask me what I want to be doing in five years' time I would say pretty much what I'm doing now," he remarks. The idea of still being at work at the age of 80 would send shivers down the spine of most people, but you can imagine Bragg still throwing himself into new projects left, right and centre. How does he manage to juggle so many strands seemingly so seamlessly? "I compartmentalise, and I don't have any hobbies," he reveals. "I was married at 21, and when I started work I had to find the time to write. I had to get up at five in the morning and work at weekend, and I just got into the habit of running that and my day job together. "Luckily I had a job that I enjoyed, and that gives you energy." Bragg is clearly doing something right because he's about to celebrate 50 years as one of Britain's foremost champions of the arts. This documentary takes him back to his working class roots in Wigton in Cumbria, and examines how his background has had an influence on his career. There's also a chance to find out more about his university years, rise to fame and status as a member of the House of Lords. Plus, an eclectic group of famous faces offer their opinions on Bragg and his work, including Judi Dench, Tony Blair, Grayson Perry, Chris Evans, John Birt and Will Self.



Melvyn Bragg: Wigton to Westminster, Saturday, BBC2, 9.15pm

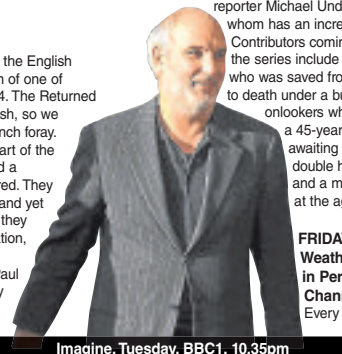
BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Britain at the Bookies BBC1, 9pm**  
Betting is big business in Britain - but can high-street bookmaker Coral beat the odds and remain a winner in an increasingly crowded market? The first episode in a new series going behind the scenes at the chain heads to Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, where eleven betting shops are currently competing for punters in the town centre, including Coral's Cherrytree branch, which is struggling to hit its targets and has gained an unwelcome reputation for disruptive customers. Manager Tony is the man with difficult job of turning its fortunes around. Meanwhile, at Coral HQ, the marketing team prepare to take a big wager on an online scheme, novelty betting specialist Gary works out the odds on a new series of Strictly Come Dancing, and back in Huddersfield, self-confessed compulsive gambler Stuart offers an insight into his life.

**TUESDAY**  
**Imagine BBC1, 10.35pm**  
The life and work of Man Booker Prize winner Richard Flanagan is examined in Alan Yentob's film. The grandson of illiterates, a school drop-out, a river guide, builder's labourer, and a passionate

campaigner for conservation, the Australian author travels with Yentob through his native Tasmania. They visit the places that have inspired his novels, and on to Thailand, to see first-hand the site of the Death Railway - the brutal setting of his award-winning novel, The Narrow Road to The Deep North.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Witnesses Channel 4, 10pm**  
The broadcaster's last raid across the English Channel resulted in the acquisition of one of the most intriguing dramas of 2014. The Returned was gripping stuff from start to finish, so we have high hopes for their next French foray. Witnesses is set in the northern part of the country, where a man, woman and a teenager have been found murdered. They had no connection to each other, and yet were left posed by their killer as if they were a family. During the investigation, detective Sandra Winckler finds a picture of legendary police chief Paul Maisonneuve, who is so baffled by the snapshot that he comes out of retirement to help find whodunit.



Imagine, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.35pm

**THURSDAY**  
**Real Stories with Ranvir Singh ITV, 7.30pm**  
New series. Good Morning Britain news presenter Ranvir Singh presents this documentary meeting ordinary people involved in extraordinary events that have changed their lives. Each edition features three different individuals, interviewed by Ranvir or reporter Michael Underwood, each of whom has an incredible story to tell. Contributors coming up throughout the series include a father-of-two who was saved from being crushed to death under a bus by a crowd of onlookers who rushed to help, a 45-year-old mother awaiting the UK's first double hand transplant and a man with dementia at the age of 39.

**FRIDAY**  
**Weather Terror: Brits in Peril Channel 5, 8pm**  
Every year, millions of UK residents jet off abroad on

holiday, hoping to escape the vagaries of the British summer. But what happens if you encounter weather conditions much, much worse than anything you would have experienced back in Blighty? This programme should offer some insights, as it hears from two Brits who found themselves in the Philippines during the most devastating typhoon on record - yet despite their own fears, they still went to the rescue of elderly hotel residents who had become trapped by the rising storm surge. The documentary also features a family whose camping holiday in France ended in them being stranded on the roof of the site's clubhouse for 14 hours, and a student who survived for seven days without food when a hiking trail in Turkey was hit by flash floods.

**Live Athletics: Anniversary Games BBC2, 8pm**  
Jonathan Edwards presents further coverage of the meeting at the Olympic Stadium in London, which marks the third anniversary of the Olympics and also serves at the 11th round of the Diamond League series. Mo Farah is scheduled to compete in the 3,000m, while another British hero from the Games, Jessica Ennis-Hill, is expected to take part in the 100m hurdles. With analysis from Colin Jackson, Paula Radcliffe and Denise Lewis.

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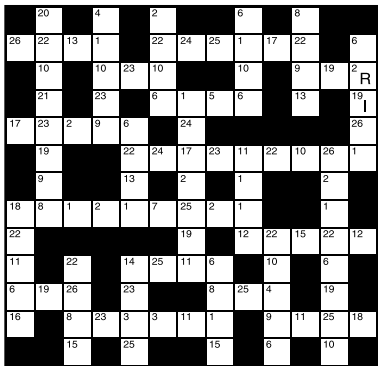
**WE ARE HERE**



# BRAIN GYM No.334

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

O	E	X	U	T	F	C	Z	W	Y	H	L	V
M	K	R	N	Q	I	A	D	G	S	J	B	P

1	14
2	R
3	15
4	16
5	17
6	18
7	19
8	I
9	20
10	21
11	22
12	23
13	24
14	25
15	26

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

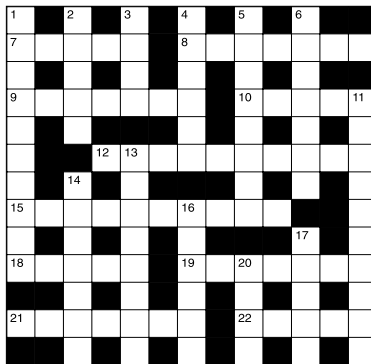
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- I'm a long time making a picture (5)
- I call round on pressing business (7)
- Worker was backward with a tool (7)
- Healing substitute? (5)
- Big impression that makes the headlines (5,5)
- Main reason why skippers have to toss? (7,3)
- Number of men seen on the river (5)
- No cardinal has spoken about the noise (7)
- Discover one has made a call pointless (4,3)
- A girl appears to be wrong (5)

#### Down

- Measures not intended to be taken seriously? (5,5)
- State I mean to change (5)
- Restricted areas for writers (4)
- Important person gives an extensive lecture (6)
- Go to pieces and pass a mistake (8)
- Current plan (7)
- Tom is to blame, perhaps, for an organic change (10)
- Profession that calls for men with high qualifications (8)
- Get lean in order to be graceful (7)
- They may appear to frighten people (6)
- It is struck by forgers (5)
- Search the bed? (4)



### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- Impinge (5)
- Deeds (7)
- Melodious (7)
- Horseman (5)
- Reconciliation (10)
- Vanishing (10)
- Long (5)
- Unvarying (7)
- Standing work (7)
- Memorise (5)

#### Down

- Writing materials (10)
- Amusing (5)
- Cook (4)
- Lozenge (6)
- Source of caviare (8)
- Warrior (7)
- Privacy (10)
- Regularity (8)
- Mobile home (7)
- Support (6)
- Converging (5)
- Unoccupied (4)

## Sudoku

4			2	5		1		
					3		5	
5		1	7					8
8						3	9	
7		3	8			9		5
	5	9		3				2
					8	4		9
3	2		4	5				6

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	8	4	9	6	5	3	7	2
9	3	5	8	7	2	4	6	1
6	2	7	1	4	3	9	8	5
5	6	2	7	8	9	1	3	4
8	1	9	4	3	6	5	2	7
7	4	3	5	2	1	8	9	6
2	7	8	3	1	4	6	5	9
3	5	1	6	9	7	2	4	8
4	9	6	2	5	8	7	1	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 United 8 Medusa; 10 Balloon; 11 Juror; 12 Arch; 13 Learn; 17 Mimic; 18 Ludo; 22 Minor; 23 Evictor; 24 Signal; 25 Notice. Down: 1 Tugboat; 2 Niblick 3 Demon; 4 Perjury; 5 Quire; 6 Tarry; 9 Inherited; 14 Lip-read; 15 Curtail; 16 Gourmet; 19 Amass 20 Snags; 21 Vicar. QUICK - Across: 7 Trophy; 8 Squirm; 10 Respite; 11 Annul; 12 Lure; 13 Rapid; 17 Truth; 18 Tear; 22 Gloom; 23 Tenuous; 24 Extort; 25 Morsel. Down: 1 Startle; 2 Consort; 3 Chair; 4 Squallid; 5 Giant; 6 Ample; 9 Devastate; 14 Primary; 15 Remorse; 16 Bristle; 19 Agree; 20 Booty; 21 Annoy.

## Thinking space

## Quiz

- With which instrument is Jascha Heifetz associated?
- How old was Buddy Holly when he died?
- Which American president was present at the 1945 Yalta conference?
- Who invented the first fully automatic machine gun?
- Of which country is 'Waitangi Day' the national day?
- What was the nickname of landscape gardener Lancelot Brown?
- Which imaginary country features in The Prisoner of Zenda?
- In which year was Shergar stolen?
- What opened in London's Fleet St. and Bedford St. in 1852?
- Which French chef was known as 'The King of Cooks'?

### Last week's solutions:

**Quiz:** 1 Admiral Jellicoe; 2 1975; 3 Billy the Kid; 4 Tasmania; 5 Burmese; 6 Charles Schulz; 7 Manchester; 8 Anne Hathaway; 9 New Zealand; 10 Laurel.  
**Niner:** RIGHTEOUS

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

**8699** gives a large plant,  
**34332** gives a flower,  
**5175462** gives another plant.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



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EPC: C

### VICTORIA MEWS, WALSALL

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- Lounge & Dining Room
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- GCH & DG

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EPC: C

### POPLAR AVENUE, BENTLEY

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EPC: C

### BENTLEY LANE, WALSALL

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EPC: D

### PARKLANDS GARDENS, WALSALL

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- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Bathroom & Garage
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- Part Double Glazed

£475pcm - plus fees



EPC: B

### FIELD ROAD, BLOXWICH

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- Kitchen, Bathroom
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- Two Bedrooms
- GCH, UPVC DG
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EPC: D

### PARKLANDS GARDENS, WALSALL

- Two Bed 2nd Floor Flat
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Storage Heaters
- Garage & DG
- Communal Gardens

£450pcm - plus fees



EPC: D

### FORRESTER STREET, WALSALL

- One Month Free Rent
- Three Bed Mid Terrace
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Further Reception Room
- Shower Room
- UPVC DG & GCH
- Rear Yard

£425pcm - plus fees



EPC: D

### SCHOOL LOFTS, WALSALL

- First Floor Loft Style Apartment
- Gated Access
- Lounge With Kitchen Area
- One Bedroom, Shower Room
- Electric Heating, Double Glazing
- Parking Space

£425pcm - plus fees



EPC: E

### ABLEWELL STREET, WALSALL

- ONE MONTH RENT FREE
- Split Level Flat
- One Bedroom
- Reception Hall
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Bathroom & GCH

£395pcm - plus fees



EPC: F

### THE SADDLERY, WALSALL

- Second Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen With Appliances
- Bathroom With Shower
- Electric Heating

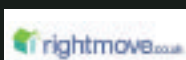
£375pcm - plus fees

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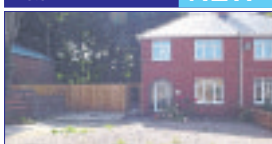
**West Bromwich**  
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**Willenhall**  
01902 505971

**Walsall**  
01922 460781

**Bilston**  
01902 505974

**Webb Street Bilston NEW**



- Refurbished Semi Detached With further potential to Extended (subject to planning permission)
  - No Upward Chain
  - UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- OFFERS AROUND: **£109,950**  
Viewing:

**Loxdale Sidings Bilston**



- 1 Bedroom modern flat
  - No upward chain
  - Lounge
- OFFERS AROUND: **£57,950**  
Viewing:

**Dilloways Lane Willenhall NEW**



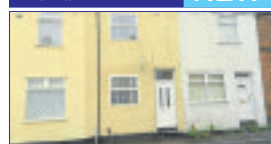
- Charming Middle Terrace Bungalow
  - Popular Location close to local amenities and transport links
  - UPVC Double Glazing
- OFFERS AROUND: **£110,000**  
Viewing:

**Rosehill Willenhall**



- 4 Bedroom terraced house
  - Entrance hallway
  - Lounge
  - EPC - D, Dining room
- OFFERS AROUND: **£135,000**  
Viewing:

**Gipsy Lane Willenhall NEW**



- £69,950
  - 2 Bedroom terraced house
  - 2 Reception rooms
  - Kitchen
- OFFERS AROUND: **£69,950**  
Viewing:

**Darwin Road Walsall**



- End Terrace Residence on a good size corner plot
  - UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
  - Reception Hall
  - EPC Rating D, Lounge
- OFFERS AROUND: **£74,950**  
Viewing:

**Webb Street Bilston NEW**



- Refurbished Semi Detached Residence with No Upward Chain
  - UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
  - Reception Hall • Guest WC
- OFFERS AROUND: **£102,950**  
Viewing:

**Broadmoor Close Bilston**



- 3 Bedroom detached house
  - Immaculate condition
  - Entrance porch and hallway
  - Lounge/diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£135,000**  
Viewing:

**Bay Avenue Bilston**



- 4 Bedroom end terraced house
  - Downstairs wc
  - Kitchen
  - EPC - C, Dining area
- OFFERS AROUND: **£150,000**  
Viewing:

**Bath Street Dudley**



- Well Presented End Terrace Residence
  - No Upward Chain
  - Gas Central Heating & UPVC Double Glazing
  - EPC Rating D, Entrance Porch
- OFFERS AROUND: **£126,500**  
Viewing:

**Langley Avenue Bilston**



- Charming 2 bedroom terraced house
  - Driveway
  - Lounge
  - EPC - D, Kitchen/Diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£105,000**  
Viewing:

The Paul Dubberley Guarantee

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pauldubberley the estate agent

**Rathbone Close Bilston**



- 2 Bedroom ground floor flat
  - No upward chain
  - Lounge
  - Kitchen
- OFFERS AROUND: **£65,000**  
Viewing:

**Lymington Road Willenhall**



- 3 Bedroom semi detached house
  - Riverpoint estate
  - Entrance porch and hall
  - EPC - C, 2 Reception rooms
- OFFERS AROUND: **£158,000**  
Viewing:

**Wolverhampton Street Wednesbury NEW**



- 3 Bedroom terraced house
  - Immaculate condition
  - No upward chain
  - Lounge
- OFFERS AROUND: **£92,500**  
Viewing:

**Clary Grove Walsall**



- Mid Terrace Residence in a cul de sac location
  - Double Glazing & Electric Heating
  - Reception Hall
  - EPC Rating D, Lounge
- OFFERS AROUND: **£105,000**  
Viewing:

**Pugh Road Bilston**



- 3 Bedroom detached house
  - Landscaped garden
  - Entrance hall
  - EPC - D, Lounge/diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£90,000**  
Viewing:

**Martin Grove Walsall**



- Executive 6 Bedroom Detached Residence
  - Three Reception Rooms & Large Breakfast Kitchen
  - Family Bathroom, 4 En-suites & Guest Wc
  - Energy Rating C, Utility Room & Double Width
- OFFERS AROUND: **£490,000**  
Viewing:

**Newhome Way Walsall**



- Modern Three Storey Property
  - Four Bedrooms
  - En Suite To Master Bedroom
  - Energy Rating TBC, Downstairs WC
- OFFERS AROUND: **£150,000**  
Viewing:

**Primley Avenue Walsall**



- Semi Detached Residence with No Upward Chain
  - UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
  - Reception Hall
  - EPC Rating D, Lounge
- OFFERS AROUND: **£109,950**  
Viewing:

**Portway Road Bilston**



- 3 Bedroom detached house
  - Landscaped garden
  - Entrance hall
  - EPC - D, Lounge/diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£129,950**  
Viewing:



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**01922 711444**  
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**Stamping Way, Walsall**

- Detached Four Bedroom Three Storey
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
- Three Further Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Cloakroom W.C.

**Monthly Rental Of £850**

**Hillside, Walsall**

- Four Bedroom Detached Home
- Large Lounge Diner
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Downstairs Bedroom With Ensuite
- Well Maintained Gardens
- Sorry No DHSS

**Monthly Rental Of £675**

**Poole Crescent, Walsall**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Entrance Porch/Hallway
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Master Bedroom with Built in Robes
- Front & Rear Gardens

**Monthly Rental Of £660**

**Selsdon Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom End of Terrace
- Entrance Porch
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen & Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Large Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

**Monthly Rental Of £550**

**Lammermoor Avenue, Birmingham**

- Spacious Two Bedroom Flat
- Entrance Balcony Area
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Communal Parking Area

**Monthly Rental Of £525**

**Bridge Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Entrance hall
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Close to Schools
- D.Glazing & C.Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens

**Monthly Rental Of £525**

**Essington Road, Willenhall**

- Immaculate Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Newly Fitted Shower Room
- Master Bedroom with Wardrobes
- Secure Gated Entrance
- Allocated Parking

**Monthly Rental Of £525**

**Thornbury Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom with Shower Over
- Modern Throughout
- Secure Entrance
- Allocated Parking Space
- Quiet Location
- Not To Be Missed!
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

**Monthly Rental Of £460**

**Blakenall Lane, Walsall**

- Three Bedroom Terraced
- Recently Refurbished
- New Flooring Throughout
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- New Family Bathroom

**Monthly Rental Of £500**

**Ingestre Close, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Popular Turnberry Estate
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom

**Monthly Rental Of £500**

**West Street, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Terraced
- Very Well Presented
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Rear Gardens

**Monthly Rental Of £495**

**Abbey Square, Walsall**

- Three Bedroom Terraced
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted.

**Monthly Rental Of £475**

**Blakenall,**

- Two Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Garden
- Fitted Kitchen

**Monthly Rental Of £475**

**Thornbury Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom with Shower Over
- Modern Throughout
- Secure Entrance
- Allocated Parking Space
- Quiet Location
- Not To Be Missed!
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

**Monthly Rental Of £460**

**Stafford Street, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor
- New Build
- Intercom Access
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom En-Suite
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

**Monthly Rental Of £450**

**Walker Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom 2nd Floor Apartment
- Large Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Family Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted, No Pets or Smokers

**Monthly Rental Of £450**

**Lavender Grove, Walsall**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

**Monthly Rental Of £450**

**Walker Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- DHSS Accepted.

**Monthly Rental Of £425**

**Gallery Square, Walsall**

- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Town Centre Location
- Close to all Transport Links
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

**Monthly Rental Of £425**

**Bloxwich Road, Walsall**

- MAIN BUS ROUTE LOCATION
- Well Presented One Bedroom Flat
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Off Road Parking

**Monthly Rental Of £380**

**Stafford Street, Walsall**

- One Bedroom Apartment
- New Build
- Top Floor
- Intercom access
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Shower Room

**Monthly Rental Of £375**

**High Street, Walsall**

- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Secure Communal Entrance
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Allocated Parking
- DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets.

**Monthly Rental Of £375**

**Harden Close, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

**Monthly Rental Of £350**

**Moat Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Flat Above Retail Premises
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Close to Town Centre & Manor Hospital
- DHSS Accepted

**Monthly Rental Of £350**

**The Exchange, Walsall**

- First Floor One Bedroom Flat
- Above Retail Premises
- Bloxwich High Street Location
- Lounge/Kitchen
- DHSS Accepted

**Monthly Rental Of £350**

**Dartmouth Avenue, Walsall**

- One Bedroom Property
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

**Monthly Rental Of £325**

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**LET!**

Tenbury Close, Walsall

- Aldridge Location!
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Laundry Room, Utility Room and Downstairs W.C.

Monthly Rental Of £750

**LET!**

Woodall Street, Walsall

- Four Bed Detached
- Viewing Essential
- Through Lounge/Diner
- Guest W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Shower Room

Monthly Rental Of £750

**LET!**

Woodbridge Close, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Completely Refurbished Semi Detached
- Downstairs WC / Cloakroom
- Large Lounge
- Dining Room & Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen and Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £725

**LET!**

Milestone Way, Willenhall

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Popular Coppice Farm Estate
- Entrance Hall
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs W.C.

Monthly Rental Of £575

**LET!**

Kensington Road, Willenhall

- Three Bedroom Link Detached
- Large Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £575

**LET!**

Somerfield Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom End Terrace
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Large Rear Garden
- Block Paved Driveway
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £550

**LET!**

Belper Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted, No Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £500

**LET!**

Harrison Street, Walsall

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £350

## GOODCHILDS AWARDED ANOTHER GOLD FOR LETTING AGENT OF THE YEAR 2015...

### Judges Commented:

*'Goodchilds has continued to innovate and provide outstanding service so the panel is delighted to award this business the gold in this category once again.'*



**LET!**

New Forest Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Recently Fitted Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £500

**LET!**

Bridge Street, Walsall

- WALSALL TOWN CENTRE
- NEW CARPETS THROUGHOUT!
- Spacious One Bed Apartment
- Secure Off Road Parking
- NOT TO BE MISSED!
- Close to all transport links & amenities

Monthly Rental Of £350

**LET!**

Dartmouth Close, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Terraced Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495

**LET!**

Bloxwich Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Private Entrance
- Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Parking Space
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £400

**LET!**

Valley Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495

## ...IT'S NOT LUCK WHEN YOU WIN EVERY YEAR

**LET!**

Cairns Street, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £425

**LET!**

Cairns Street, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terraced
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £425

**LET!**

Walker Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge / Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom with Shower
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking Space
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £450

**LET!**

Tintern Crescent, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Area
- Family Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets

Monthly Rental Of £450

**LET!**

Birmingham Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Entrance Hall
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £450

**LET!**

Bagnall Street, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Toilet
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £475

**LET!**

Glastonbury Crescent, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495

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**SHORT HEATH WALKERS FOLD**  
 • Modern 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Positioned On An Excellent Plot With Potential To Extend (STPP)  
 • Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen  
 • Double Glazing, Gas CH, Driveway  
**OFFERS OVER £129,995**



**WILLENHALL WILLIAMS CLOSE**  
 • Much Improved Semi Detached  
 • Spacious L Shaped Lounge / Dining Room  
 • Fitted Kitchen  
 • Three Bedrooms



**SNEYD PARK DRUID PARK ROAD**  
 • Well Appointed Semi Detached Property  
 • Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory  
 • Two Double Bedrooms, Shower Room  
 • Garage, Driveway, Rear Gardens, No Chain  
**OFFERS OVER £120,000**



**WILLENHALL RUGELEY AVENUE**  
 • Much Improved 3 Bedroom Semi Detached  
 • Hall, Lounge / Dining Room, Re-fitted Kitchen  
 • Utility, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas CH, Driveway, Large Garden  
**OFFERS OVER £110,000**



**WILLENHALL BRICK KILN STREET**  
 • Well Presented Semi Detached Property  
 • Hall, Lounge, Large Kitchen, 6 Floor Bathroom  
 • Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating System  
 • Double Glazing, Driveway, Rear Gardens  
**£109,950**



**NEW INVENTION SQUIRES GROVE**  
 • Well Presented Ground Floor Apartment  
 • Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms  
 • Bathroom, En-suite Shower Room  
 • Allocated Parking Space, No Chain  
**£100,000 (70% SHARE AVAILABLE)**



**WILLENHALL SHEPPELL GREEN**  
 • Spacious Well Presented Second Floor Flat  
 • Hall, Large Lounge, Spacious Kitchen  
 • Two Excellent Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom  
 • Double Glazing, Garage, No Chain  
**£80,000**



**COPPICE FARM LOCHALSH GROVE**  
 • Superb 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow  
 • Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory  
 • Shower Room, Double Glazing, Gas CH  
 • Gardens, Driveway, Garage, No Chain  
**£220,000**



**WILLENHALL ALVINGTON CLOSE**  
 • Improved 3 Bedroom Semi Detached  
 • Lounge with Dining Area • Re-Fitted Kitchen  
 • Double Glazing • Gas CH  
 • Garage and Driveway • Pleasant Gardens  
**£139,950**



**NEW INVENTION DELAMERE ROAD**  
 • Improved Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property  
 • Lounge & Conservatory • Dining Kitchen  
 • Bathroom • Garage • Block Paved Driveway  
 • Gas CH • Double Glazing • Rear Gardens  
**£139,950**



**PORTOBELLO MOUNT ROAD**  
 • Deceptively Spacious 3 Bedroom End Terrace  
 • Lounge, Sitting Room, Spacious Fitted Kitchen  
 • Loft Room, Large Bathroom, Rear Gardens  
 • Gas Central Heating System, Double Glazing  
**£130,000**



**WILLENHALL COPPICE LANE**  
 • Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached  
 • Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility  
 • Three Good Size Bedrooms, Bathroom, Drive  
 • Gas CH Majority D Glaz, Gardens, No Chain  
**£130,000**



**COUNTY BRIDGE DEVON ROAD**  
 • Improved Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached  
 • Hall, Lounge, Excellent Dining Kitchen  
 • Three Bedrooms, Re-fitted Shower Room  
 • Garage, Driveway, Rear Gardens, No Chain  
**£123,950**



**WILLENHALL SPINDLE TREE RISE**  
 • Impeccably Appointed Modern End Terrace  
 • Hall • Guests Wc, Lounge, Impressive Kitchen  
 • Excellent Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom  
 • Double Width Driveway, Gardens, Gas Ch, D Glaz  
**OFFERS OVER £120,000**



**WILLENHALL SHEPPELL GREEN**  
 • Improved Traditional Semi Detached  
 • Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen  
 • Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing  
 • Gas Central Heating, Driveway, Gardens  
**£119,000**



**WILLENHALL HODSON AVENUE**  
 • Much Improved 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached  
 • Hall, Lounge, Impressive Dining Kitchen • No Chain  
 • Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating  
 • Block Paved Driveway, Pleasant Rear Gardens  
**£115,000**



**WILLENHALL CLOTHIER STREET**  
 • Renovated 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace Property  
 • Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom  
 • Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating System  
 • Rear Gardens, No Upward Chain  
**£100,000**



**WILLENHALL WELLINGTON PLACE**  
 • Well Appointed First Floor Duplex Maisonnette  
 • Allocated Parking Spaces  
 • Lounge with Dining Area • Large Bedroom  
 • Fitted Kitchen • Bathroom • Double Glazing  
**OFFERS OVER £80,000**



**WILLENHALL DOVE DALE AVENUE**  
 • This Property Is For Sale By The Modern Method Of Auction  
 • 3 Bedroom Semi Detached with rear gardens  
 • Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen  
**£69,950**

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CHOOSE THE BEST!**  
**HERE ARE A FEW RECENT COMMENTS  
FROM OUR HAPPY CUSTOMERS**

**Mrs P said**, with special thanks to the team at Skitts for all your support, care and professionalism during an emotional time for our family, we will recommend you to all our friends.

**Mrs J said**, the Skitts team were very professional and worked very hard to sell my property.

**Mr J said**, I had tried other agents but was unsuccessful, then I used you and you sold it for the price I wanted and quickly.

**Mr & Mrs A said**, thank you so much for all your help and support in making our move as painless as possible.

**Mr & Mrs H said**, thank you for all your help, we really appreciate all you did for us.

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**A TWO BEDROOM BUNGALOW ON SUMMER HAYES UP TO £150,000 FOR MRS J**

**WANTED**  
**A THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED IN BENTLEY UP TO £125,000 FOR MRS R**

**WANTED**  
**A MODERN TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED IN WILLENHALL UP TO £125,000 FOR MR/S T**

**WANTED**  
**A THREE BEDROOM SEMI NEAR STROUD AVENUE UP TO £145,000 FOR MRS T**

**WANTED**  
**A THREE BEDROOM DETACHED IN NEW INVENTION UP TO £165,000 FOR MR N**

**WANTED**  
**ANY PROPERTIES WITH MINE ISSUES IN WILLENHALL AND BENTLEY FOR MR G**

**WANTED**  
**A TWO BEDROOM BUNGALOW IN WILLENHALL OR BENTLEY UP TO £180,000 FOR MR P**

**WANTED**  
**A TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED ON SNEYD PARK UP TO £120,000 FOR MR M**

**WANTED**  
**A FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED UP TO £225,000 ON COPPICE FARM FOR MR H**



# L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



## BENTLEY



OIRO £85,000

### CORNWALL PLACE, WALSALL

Two Bed Ground Floor Flat. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen & Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Paved Fore Garden & Private Garden To Rear With Brick Built Outhouse.

## DARLASTON



£87,500

### BOOTH STREET, WEDNESBURY

Two Bedroom Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Family Bathroom. G/C/H. Enclosed Rear Garden. Two Allocated Parking Spaces To Rear.

## DARLASTON



OIRO £90,000

### HORTON PLACE, WEDNESBURY

Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Separate W.C And First Floor Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Front & Rear Gardens. Off Road Parking.

## SHORT HEATH



£90,000

### FARMHOUSE WAY, W'HALL

Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/ Diner And Family Bathroom. D/G. Part G/C/H. Gardens To Both The Front And Rear. Great BTL or FTB.

## WILLENHALL



£99,995

### WOODWARDS PLACE,

Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Property, Comprises Of Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs W.C, Three Bedrooms, And Family Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Ideal FTB Or Buy To Let.

## WILLENHALL



£107,500

### TEMPLE ROAD, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C & First Floor Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. O/R/P To Fore. Enclosed Rear Garden. MUST VIEW!

## REEDSWOOD



£109,995

### PARKVIEW CRES, WALSALL

Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C & Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Detached Garage. Driveway To Front & Side. Enclosed Garden To Rear.

## WILLENHALL



£110,000

### THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL

Modern Two Bed Semi, Comprises Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Block Paved Driveway. Enclosed Rear Garden.

## BENTLEY



£110,000

### EDINBURGH AVE, WALSALL

Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen & Ground Floor W.C. 1st Floor Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

## POOL HAYES



£117,500

### LUCKNOW ROAD, W'HALL

Immaculately Presented & Extended Two Bed Semi, Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, W/C, Shower Room. D/G & C/H. Off Road Parking. Generous Garden To Rear.

## SHORT HEATH



£119,950

### SHERLOCK CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Well Presented Two Bed End Townhouse. Comprises Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory, Bathroom, D/G, G/CH, Parking To The Fore, Enclosed Garden To The Rear

## ROCKET POOL



£119,995

### MELDON DRIVE, BILSTON

Three Bed Mid Townhouse Comprising Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/ Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, Extensive Rear Gardens & Block Paved Driveway To Fore. Must View!

## WILLENHALL



O.I.R.O £120,000

### BIRCHES RISE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. Allocated Off Road Parking Space. VIEWING ADVISED!

## WILLENHALL



£124,995

### LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL

Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Porch, Inner Hall, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Generous Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Sun Room & Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. O/R/P To The Fore & Enclosed Garden To Rear.

## SHORT HEATH



£140,000

### STOURMORE CLOSE, W'HALL

Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Driveway Parking & A Garage To The Fore With An Enclosed Garden To Rear.

## KINGFISHER ESTATE



£145,995

### WELLAND GROVE, W'HALL

Three Bedroom Detached Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. D/H. Glazed, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear, Driveway & Garage.

## WEDNESFIELD



£149,995

### BROAD LANE SOUTH, W-FIELD

Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Through Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden And Driveway To Front And Side.

## BENTLEY



O.I.R.O £160,000

### MONMOUTH ROAD, WALSALL

Two Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, 26ft Sun Room & Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Extensive Off Road Parking To Fore & Enclosed Garden To Rear. MUST VIEW!

## THE HAYES



£163,000

### CASTLE DRIVE, WILLENHALL

Three/Four Bed Link Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor W.C & Bedroom. Three First Floor Bedrooms & Jack And Jill Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Rear Garden.

## WOODLANDS



£165,000

### HUNTS LANE, WILLENHALL

Extended Four Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge/ Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Bedroom, Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Off Road Parking. Generous Plot.

## COPPICE FARM



£169,995

### HIGHMOOR CL, W'HALL

Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Garage, Block Paved Driveway And Enclosed Rear Garden.

## WILLENHALL



£185,000

### BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/ Diner, Veranda & Family Bathroom. Maj D/G. G/C/H. Garden To Fore. O/R/P. Extensive Gardens To Rear.

## COPPICE FARM



£199,995

### LOCHALSH GR, WILLENHALL

Four Bed Detached, Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Open Plan Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, En-Suite Shower To Master & Family Bathroom. G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Front & Rear Gardens.

## SHORT HEATH



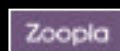
£270,000

### BLOXWICH RD NTH, W'HALL

Detached Four Bed Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge With Inglenook Fireplace, Separate Sitting Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Galleried Landing, Family Bathroom, Garage, D/ Glazing, C/ Heating.

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## Auction

Thursday 6th  
August 2015  
at 6.00pm Precisely

Banks's Stadium, Walsall  
Football Club, Bescot  
Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA



Non traditionally constructed semi detached property situated in a popular residential area in need of full modernisation and improvement. Ground Floor Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Shower Room. First Floor Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Bathroom and Separate W.C. Outside: Overgrown Fore and Rear Gardens.

●Guide Price £45,000 - £50,000



Traditional mid terraced in need of complete modernisation and improvement conveniently located comprising: Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Side Entry, First Floor: Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Bathroom. Outside Fore and Rear Gardens.

●Guide Price £30,000 - £35,000



This mid terraced residence situated in a popular residential area offers great scope for further improvement and would be ideal for a first time buyer or investor. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor: Front Living Room with window to front, leading to under stair cupboard, Rear Living Room, Kitchen with window to side and door leading to garden, Bathroom. First Floor: Bedroom One with window to front, Bedroom Two with window to rear and small cupboard situated above the stairs. Outside: Side passage leading to a very well maintained floral garden

●Guide Price £50,000 PLUS



This commercial property with double glazing holds a lot of potential and is located a short walk from both Walsall town centre and Walsall train station. With three floors of office space the property is an ideal opportunity for redevelopment and could be converted to residential (subject to planning approval). The property comprises:- Ground Floor front door to hall providing access to stairs to first floor and office 1 (front), office 2, office 3 with fitted kitchen as well as access to WC First Floor Landing leads to office 4 (front), office 5 (rear) leading to small cupboard and stairs to second floor. Second Floor Landing leads to office 6 (front), office 7, office 8 with access to small cupboard

●Guide Price £90,000 PLUS



Traditional end terraced property conveniently located ideal for the investor (purchasers are advised to view the mining search). Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, First Floor: Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bathroom with coloured suite. Outside Attractive Fore and Enclosed Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £30,000 - £35,000



This fire damaged traditional three bedroom mid terraced is in need of complete modernisation and improvement. Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Side Entry, First Floor: Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Bathroom. Outside: Fore and Rear Gardens.

●Guide Price £30,000 - £35,000



A Three Bedroom Semi detached Dorma Bungalow situated in a popular residential area in Great Barr. This well maintained bungalow also offers access to a superbly presented garden. Will all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor: Side door leads to hall with access to stairs, Hall leads to Bedroom One with window to front, Dining Room with window to front, Lounge with include patio doors which open to rear garden Bathroom, Kitchen which includes a range of units and also includes a back door with access to rear garden. First Floor: Stairs lead to Bedroom Two with window to front and Bedroom Three.

●Guide Price £90,000 PLUS



These four Victorian terraced properties which have been extended at ground floor level currently provide office and meeting room facilities, with double glazing and gas central heating the development offers a number of uses and needs to be viewed internally to appreciate the scope of the development. Entrance Hall, Office, Three Rooms, Kitchen, Meeting Room, Office/Reception, Office, Meeting Room, Computer Room, Store, Male and Female W.C.'s. First Floor: Ten Rooms and W.C. Buyers Premium: A Buyers Premium of £900.00 (inclusive of V.A.T.) will be charged in addition to the Auctioneers Administration Fee.

●Guide Price £240,000 PLUS



This Three bedroom Semi Detached property is situated in a popular residential area and is in need of modernisation and improvement. This property with double glazing and Central heating offers great potential for an investor. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Bathroom, Covered Passage, Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three.

●Guide Price £58,000 PLUS



Ideally suited to the needs to a first time buyer, more mature purchaser or investor this well maintained, two bedroom semi detached property lends itself to further expansions (subject to the necessary planning) and is situated in a convenient and popular location with the added benefit of Tamebridge Railway Station within walking distance. With uPVC double glazed and gas fired central heating the property in brief comprises: Enclosed Porch, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore Garden with Ample off Road Parking, Rear Garden with Utility and Garage. EPC Rating D

●Guide Price £90,000 PLUS



Traditional end terraced property in need of complete modernisation and improvement offering opportunity for builder or investor. Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Door to Lobby and Store, Bathroom. First Floor: Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three. Outside: Fore and Rear Gardens.

●Guide Price £44,000 - £50,000



A traditional mid terraced property conveniently located but in need of complete modernisation and improvement (limited viewing available at viewers risk). With front driveway the property comprises: Ground Floor: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Wet Room, Side Entry, First Floor: Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Additional Bedroom/ Potential Bathroom, Separate W.C. Outside: Driveway with Fore Garden, Rear Gardens.

●Guide Price £35,000 - £40,000



A purpose built leasehold first floor maisonette, situated in a quiet cul de sac, close to all amenities. Ideally suited to an investor and offering good yields the gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation is in need of some upgrade and comprises: Fully enclosed Porch, Kitchen, Lounge, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £30,000 PLUS



Occupying a convenient location within easy access of Walsall Town Centre and the motorway network, this traditional semi detached property has double glazing but is in need of modernisation and improvement. (Prospective purchasers are advised to check the mining report which will be available via our legal pack). Ground Floor: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Front Reception Room, Rear Reception Room, Extended Kitchen, First Floor: Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Bathroom Outside. Small fore garden and good size rear garden, double gate leading off the main road to off street parking with separate detached wooden garage (the access to which, we understand is subject to a Peppercorn rent)

●Guide Price £65,000 PLUS



This very spacious Five Bedroom double fronted property is ideally located for local amenities and is already benefiting from part double glazing and gas central heating. As well as a large mature garden the property comprises: Ground Floor: Guest shower room, Sitting room, Lounge, Dining Room and Kitchen. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Second Floor: Bedrooms Four and Five

●Guide Price £140,000 PLUS



Traditionally styled mid terraced property in need of complete modernisation and is located in a popular residential area. (Purchasers are advised to check the interpretive mining report) With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor: Front door leads to hallway with access to stairs, Kitchen, Lounge, Lobby, First Floor: Stairs lead to Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Bathroom and W.C. Outside: Front and Rear gardens both overgrown and in need of work.

●Guide Price £59,000 PLUS



This large detached property situated in a popular residential area is in need of modernisation and offers great scope for improvement. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor: Front Porch leads to Entrance hall with access to stairs, Living/Dining Room with bay window to front, Kitchen with windows offering views of the garden and rear door for access to the garden and another door with access to the front of the property. W.C. First Floor: Stairs lead to Landing with access to bathroom with separate W.C. Bedroom One with Bay window to front Bedroom Two with window to front, Bedroom Three with window to rear offering views of the rear garden.

●Guide Price £127,500 PLUS



This Large Detached property is set on a corner plot on the popular Wood Green Road, the property is in need of modernisation and improvement and is ideally suited for an investor who can capitalise on the great scope this property offers. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor: Front porch leads to entrance hall with access to stairs, Living Room with window to front, Lounge with bay window to front, Kitchen with window to rear and door to side passage. Side passage leads to W.C. Storage room and Garage which is accessible from Rooth Street. First Floor: Landing leads to Bedroom One with window to front and rear, Bedroom Two with window to front and fitted wardrobe, Bedroom Three with window to rear and fitted

●Guide Price £125,000 PLUS



This substantial 1960's detached property is situated in a prime residential location and offers tremendous scope for further improvement. The well proportioned accommodation comprises the following: Ground Floor: Front door leads to Reception Hall with stairs to first floor off and access to W.C. 'L' Shaped Lounge Dining Room with windows to front and patio doors to rear, Kitchen with sink unit drainer and base units. First Floor: Staircase to Landing providing access to: Bedroom One with windows to front and rear, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Bathroom with coloured suite. Outside: Garage with long driveway with ample off street parking and neat enclosed private rear garden

●Guide Price £200,000 PLUS

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide





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#### Cottage Lane Burntwood



**Offers around £185,000**

A rare opportunity to purchase a unique detached domer bungalow with plenty of character and charm and having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This splendid cottage is located in a quiet cul-de-sac and further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen diner, 2 x ground floor double bedrooms, family bathroom, utility room, 1st floor master bedroom with ensuite shower room, off road parking for several vehicles and detached double garage, good size rear garden with patio. Energy rating E.

#### Bentley Drive Walsall



**Offers around £117,500**

A superb, improved and upgraded two bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double and gas central heating. This lovely well presented family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, two double bedrooms and front and rear gardens. Energy rating D.

#### Montgomery Road Bentley



**Offers around £109,995**

A good size three bedroom family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, through lounge, fitted kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage. Energy rating D.

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#### Market Square Wolverhampton



**Offers around £69,995**

●●Suit landlord or first time buyer (Previously let out for ?450pcm)●● A well presented one bedroom modern City centre apartment located on the fourth floor and being in the heart of Wolverhampton City Centre with the benefit of no upward chain, security intercom and lift to the first floor, double glazing and electric central heating. The property further comprises, lounge, double bedroom, luxury bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen and secure allocated parking. EPC rating of C.

#### Bloxwich Road Walsall



**Offers around £110,000**

A fully refurbished and upgraded 3 bedroom middle terrace having the benefit of fresh decoration, new carpets, UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This well presented family home further comprises lounge, dining room, re-fitted kitchen with built in oven and hob, re-fitted ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, Refitted W.C (on first floor) and rear garden. Energy rating E.

#### Elbow Street Cradley Heath



**Offers around £84,500**

Redstones are delighted to present to market this stunning refurbished two bedroom apartment, located within walking distance of Cradley Heath with a host of shops, schools, restaurants and bars. It is serviced with excellent public transport by both bus and train. Accommodation comprises of entrance hallway, reception room, kitchen, two double bedrooms and a bathroom. The property also benefits from private parking and communal gardens. Viewing is highly recommended!!! Energy rating C.

#### Sefton Grove Great Bridge



**Offers around £134,950**

An improved and upgraded modern three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of new carpets and fresh decoration throughout, UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, lounge with wall mounted modern remote fire, refitted modern kitchen diner, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking to the front. Energy rating D.

#### Wolfsbane Drive Walsall



**Offers around £94,995**

A modern one bedroom middle terrace property in a sought after estate having the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely property further comprises reception hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating C.

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#### Caldmore Road Walsall



**Offers around £75,000**

A well presented two bedroom second floor modern apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge/diner, family bathroom with electric shower, two bedrooms, communal garden, intercom and allocated parking. Energy Rating B.

#### Mistletoe Drive Tamebridge



**Offers around £110,000**

A two bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of double glazing and gas central heating. Located in a sort after estate in a quiet cul-de-sac the property further comprises reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and two parking spaces. Energy rating D.

#### Ashmore Lake Road Willenhall



**Offers around £109,995**

A superb improved and upgraded two bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely well presented family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, refitted bathroom, rear garden and off road parking to the front. Energy Rating E

#### Ryle Street Bloxwich



**Offers around £99,995**

A very well presented extended 3 bedroom semi detached family home with no upward chain. The property boasts an entrance porch, good sized living room, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom on the ground floor and a modern shower room on the first floor. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, driveway and front and rear gardens. Energy rating C.

#### Victoria Road Wednesfield



**Offers around £139,995**

●●SUPERB REFURBISHED, UPGRADED THREE BEDROOM DETACHED WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN●●MUST BE VIEWED●● A deceptively spacious three bedroom detached family home having the benefit of fresh decoration throughout, double glazing, gas central heating, fitted intruder alarm and no upward chain. This ideal family home further comprises reception hall, sitting room, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, separate W.C, good size rear garden with off road parking and garage. Energy rating E.

#### Franchise Gardens Wednesbury



**Offers around £80,000**

A good size three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, guest W.C., fitted breakfast kitchen, lounge, three bedrooms, family shower room, front and rear gardens, off road parking and separate garage. Energy rating D.

### Head Office

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West Midlands WS1 1RA

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F: 0845 226 2844

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# HR-V promises a lot

The new Honda HR-V subcompact crossover will be priced from £17,995 on-the-road for the entry-level S grade petrol model, rising to £24,945 for the flagship EX diesel.

For those seeking finance packages, competitive PCP options for the dynamic and distinctive new Honda are expected to start from £149 per month 5.9 per cent APR with a 30 per cent deposit, bringing great affordability to the small crossover segment.

The all-new HR-V blends characterful coupé looks merged with the tough, solid stance of a robust SUV. Inside, occupants will find class-leading boot space. Thanks to innovative packaging, the HR-V's has exceptional versatility incorporating Honda's highly practical Magic Seats system, allowing for numerous loading configurations.

Buyers opting for the base-grade S model are well catered for, with convenience features such as climate control, cruise control and dusk-sensing automatic headlamps fitted as standard.

The mid-grade SE model adds a range of premium features, including rain sensing wipers, front and rear parking sensors and a six-speaker audio upgrade. A 'Smart Touch' interior includes touch panel controls for the dual-zone climate control.

Customers choosing the top-grade EX model will appreciate a full leather interior, smart entry and start, and rear-view camera. The sense of HR-V's spaciousness is amplified with the unique-in-class, tilt-and-slide opening panoramic glass sunroof. Styling is enhanced with 17-inch alloy wheels.

Customers opting for the SE or EX models will also benefit from the Honda Connect in-car infotainment system as standard. This Android-based system features an app-based 'pinch, swipe and tap' interface

accessed on a seven-inch touchscreen in the centre of the dash.

Honda Connect comes with pre-installed apps, with others available for download. These give rapid access to internet-based services such as web browsing, real-time traffic information, news and weather, social media, and internet music stations. Integrated Garmin navigation is standard on EX and is available as an option on SE models.

Designed and engineered to achieve a five-star Euro NCAP rating, every new HR-V sold in Europe will be equipped with Honda's City-Brake Active System as standard. SE or EX models will feature Honda's Advanced Driver Assist System, which uses radar sensors, plus forward- and rear-facing cameras. This comprehensive suite of active safety technologies includes Forward Collision Warning, Traffic Sign Recognition, Intelligent Speed Limiter, Lane Departure Warning and High-beam Support System.

The HR-V boasts an engaging drive coupled with efficient performance, thanks to a choice of all-new 130 PS 1.5 litre i-VTEC petrol and 120 PS 1.6 litre i-DTEC diesel engines. Combined with either a six-speed manual gearbox or a newly developed CVT (for petrol models only), emissions are as low as 104 g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>. The CVT's driveability is given a more natural 'multi-gear' feel through the use of new control software exclusive to Europe which simulates seven speeds with optimised gear change mapping.

Leon Brannan, head of cars at Honda UK, said: "16 years after the original HR-V, Honda is returning to the crossover segment it pioneered with the exceptionally spacious, versatile and technologically advanced HR-V. With highly competitive list prices, we are expecting huge demand for the all-new HR-V. HR-V signals the third of five new and refreshed models for the brand this year. We're confident the HR-V will further broaden the appeal of the Honda brand amongst a wide range of car buyers."



## BRIEFING

● The Celerio, Suzuki's latest global compact citycar went on sale in the UK in February and more than 3,000 have been delivered to date. To add further choice and value for customers, Suzuki has now introduced a new SZ2 derivative priced at just £6,999 which now completes a five-model line-up in the range consisting of SZ2, SZ3, SZ3 Dualjet, SZ4 and SZ4 with Auto Gear Shift (AGS). Although priced at £1,000 below the SZ3 model, standard specification highlights for the new SZ2 is comprehensive and includes six airbags (driver, passenger, side and curtain), electric front windows, central locking, ESP (a registered trademark of Daimler AG) and DAB radio with CD Tuner. Suzuki is well known as the small car expert and Celerio has retained its trademark compact car ease of drive while providing an elevated driving position, interior space which surpasses most conventional A-segment cars, and also a class-leading luggage capacity of 254 litres.



## Vauxhall bringing OnStar to the UK

Vauxhall is bringing OnStar, its in-car telematics system, to the UK this summer, which includes a high-speed 4G mobile network, emergency response notification and stolen vehicle recovery technology.

The system will be free for customers for the first year, and will be available in selected models in Vauxhall's passenger car range from August.

Debuting at the 2015 Frankfurt Motor Show in September, the first all-new Vauxhall to get OnStar will be the British-built Astra, which will arrive in UK showrooms in October.

Based in Luton, OnStar's European headquarters is set to open for business this summer. Globally, OnStar already serves around seven million customers in the United States, Canada, China and Mexico.

As well as the United Kingdom, OnStar will be available in 13 other markets across Europe.

Commenting on the programme rollout, Tim Tozer, Vauxhall's chairman and managing director, said: "With OnStar, Vauxhall is bringing the latest connectivity technology to a wider audience.

"OnStar will make driving safer as well as

offering new innovations in infotainment and telematics.

"And best of all, the system will be free to customers for the first year of ownership," said Mr Tozer.

If an airbag deploys, OnStar will be alerted automatically and an advisor will then contact the vehicle to determine whether help is required. If there is no response, emergency services are requested.

Available 24/7 and 365 days a year, OnStar advisors are located at the OnStar service centre in Luton.

At a push of an SOS button, OnStar users can request assistance whenever they deem it necessary, for example, if they witness an accident. The new system also includes a roadside assistance service to cover breakdowns.

OnStar will be able to assist vehicle owners and police if a vehicle with the system is stolen. Remote ignition block will allow OnStar to send a remote signal to the vehicle that blocks the engine from starting once it has been reported stolen.

And, in a bid to make fault diagnosis easier, OnStar can provide subscribers with a monthly vehicle diagnostics email.

A check can be requested at any time at the push of a button, providing peace of mind before setting off on a longer journey, for example.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 - 70.6 (12.2 - 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 - 85.6 (7.0 - 3.3), Combined 32.5 - 78.5 (8.7 - 3.6). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 201 - 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Models shown for illustrative purposes only. Terms and Conditions: 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0.0% fixed). Minimum customer deposit 0%, maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due. The vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, Carr Road, Beckwith, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe Plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register number 312541. Offer available between the 1 July 2015 and 31 July 2015 inclusive on participating models between 90 and 180 days old, with a starting mileage of 50 miles or less.





# Golf GTE, a practical approach to motoring

By Ian Donaldson

There was no escaping the gleam in the eyes of the people I met while trying to plug the test Golf into a public charging point to add more free miles to the journey.

None of the drivers was in a Golf GTE – it's too new to see many on the road – but they were all solid converts of life with a battery doing the work. It's saving them a small fortune, they reckoned.

Two were driving Nissan Leafs, an all-electric car that simply stops when the juice runs out (after 90 miles when I tried one), but their owners simply planned recharge stops, or contemplated hiring a conventional car for the occasional long drive.

The Golf GTE won't go anywhere near that far on electricity alone, with an optimistic 31 miles quoted by its maker. The best I managed, with air con off and never exceeding 50mph, was 24 miles.

All of them delightfully smooth and quiet, it must be said, as the electric motor pulled this spacious and quite weighty machine away from a standstill with the insistent strength of gravity turned on its side.

And when the electric power is spent, the petrol engine switches itself on and you proceed with a little more noise from up front but with a range only limited by finding a filling station.

## Pence

Topping up the battery from a three pin domestic plug takes under four hours and costs pence.

It was faster (and free) from the charge points I found in a couple of town centres, but be warned, the big white rapid charging boxes at motorway services won't work on the GTE.

Anyway, after precisely 601 miles on test the dashboard monitor showed an overall fuel consumption of 69.2mpg. That included several battery top ups but one long journey on mostly petrol power alone (with no charger at the overnight halt).

So even with a short all-electric range, the GTE was a thrifty machine.

Push the GTE button by the gear selector and it's a quick one too; combining both power sources to turn the car into a properly swift hatchback.

## Recharge

Stiffer springs than a conventional Golf and bigger alloy wheels firm up the ride and provide something like a sporty feel on corners, while a thick rimmed steering wheel and subtly tartan trim play on the junior GTI theme inside.

Volkswagen builds an all-electric e-Golf (£26,325 after grant) and it will take the car quite briskly more than 100 miles before you're stuck needing a recharge.

For rather less (£24,965) you could go for the all-petrol Golf 1.4 TSI with automatic gearbox, more than enough performance and a likely mid-40s to the gallon.

Sorry for all the figures, but there are more. Run a Golf GTE as your company car and both your pocket and the firm's bottom line will be considerably boosted by the tax incentives the government uses to tempt more of us down the greener road.

No London congestion charge, either.

A further incentive to look hard at a GTE, despite the high purchase price, is a list of standard kit that runs from a fine sat nav system, six-speed auto gearbox and adaptive cruise control to a DAB radio, automatic air conditioning and parking sensors front and rear.

The boot is smaller than you'll find in a conventional Golf (the big battery means the petrol tank has to be moved rearward) but it's still a decent size. There's also a space-saver spare wheel instead of the dreaded can of gloom, so you won't be stuck with a puncture when a rock takes out a side-wall.

If that sounds like a properly practical approach to motoring, the GTE might be precisely the same.

## TESTED

### Volkswagen Golf GTE

**Engine:** 201bhp petrol and electric motor

**Warranty:** Three years, 60,000 miles

**Economy:** The Golf GTE can do 166mpg

**Insurance:** 26

**Price:** £28,755 (after £5,000 grant)

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# Svelte and sexy beast gets a few tiny tweaks

By Matt Joy

**It's one of the best-looking cars money can buy, and now you can have it with a manual gearbox. Jaguar's F-Type is the best sports car to come from the British brand in decades, but that hasn't prevented them from trying to make it better.**

For the 2016 model year, there are some visual and mechanical tweaks but most significantly it is available with a manual gearbox for the first time.

Elsewhere, all F-Type models now have an electro-hydraulic power steering system like that of the XE saloon, and four-wheel-drive is now available on S and R versions of the F-Type, although the six-speed manual is two-wheel-drive only.

A beautiful car to look at, and unusually more so in Coupe than in Roadster form, the F-Type needed next to no changes in order to make it look good. So unless you choose the 4WD version which gets a re-profiled bonnet, you're getting the same svelte and modern shape.

It's very colour-sensitive, especially with the new options packs and several alloy wheel designs, but you'd have to work hard to produce an unsightly F-Type.

Those looks are a big part of the F-Type's racy image, as well as the fact that they aren't too commonplace on the roads.

The F-Type remains a strict two-seater and with much of the front end occupied by a selection of sizeable engines, so the space available is relatively modest. The centre console has been re-jigged to give more room for your left arm to change gear on the manual model which is a help, and although it's snug inside, even taller drivers can get comfortable.

Better still, the Coupe has a decent boot with 315 litres available.

Even the most sensitive of palms will struggle to feel the change to an electric power steering system; it's still super-sharp and responsive and maintains the F-Type's lively character.

## Elements

The manual gearbox is definitely the choice for the enthusiast, as it shifts quickly and with great ease while the pedal positioning is good for those who like to heel-and-toe.

But it is the blend of these elements that makes the F-Type so much fun.

Sure, the monstrously powerful R model is a complete hoot, but the S is plenty fast; there's 375bhp on offer, enough to blast to 62mph in 5.5 seconds and all accompanied by an outrageous rasp from the exhaust that hardly seems legal.

It's difficult to drive without a large grin appearing on your face.

There's plenty of competition for the F-Type even at around £60,000 for a version like this, but you get lots of kit for the money.

Even the standard V6 model gets 18-inch alloy wheels and part-leather cabin, while this S model adds important stuff like the adaptive suspension, limited slip differential and the all-important active sports exhaust.

There's plenty of scope for going crazy with the options list but the S version has a lot of the crucial kit for a reasonable premium over the standard car.

The refreshing thing about the F-Type is that although it's a sports car, it's not an overtly masculine one. Jodie Kidd drives one, and just like the E-Type that went before it, the F-Type has a visual appeal that will attract young, old, male and female.

Of course there's a financial investment required, but barring that hurdle, it's a sports car with a very broad appeal.

This car summed up in a single word: Sexy.

If this car was a school teacher it would command instant respect without having to shout about it.



## It's Brindley Kia's 2nd Birthday – and you're invited!

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## TESTED

Jaguar F-Type S manual, £60,260

**Engine:** 3.0-litre petrol unit producing 375bhp and 339lb/ft of torque

**Transmission:** Six-speed manual gearbox driving the rear wheels

**Performance:** Top speed 171mph, 0-62mph in 5.5 seconds

**Economy:** 28.8 mpg combined

**Emissions:** 234g/km of CO2

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\*At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) own the vehicle; pay the optional final payment; ii) return the vehicle; subject to fair wear and tear, charges may apply; or iii) replace; part-exchange the vehicle. Available on Solutions Personal Contract Plan. 18s and over. Subject to availability. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Offer available when ordered by 30 September 2015 from participating Retailers. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Exclusions apply to Citigo S trim, Roomster special edition and new Superb available from 1 July. Accurate at time of publication [07/2015]. Freepost ŠKODA Financial Services. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders to assist with your purchase, who may pay us for introducing you to them. Model shown is Fabia SE L 1.0 MPI 75PS at £13,610 OTR with optional Race Blue metallic paint at £535 and Colour Concept at £400. Total OTR £14,545. The Octavia Estate shown is not UK specification. Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 21.7 (13.0) to 72.4 (3.9), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) to 91.1 (3.1), Combined 30.4 (9.3) to 83.1 (3.4). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the ŠKODA range are 217 to 88g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

**Autosales Burntwood**  
Unit 1 Attwood Road, Zone 1,  
Burntwood Business Park  
WS7 3GJ (Near Cannock)  
**01543 450000**  
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HATCHBACK

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**lost & found**

**LOST PASSPORT**  
Tara Azad Radha  
Date of birth July 1, 1984.  
Iraqi Passport.  
No A6730053  
If anyone finds please send to  
Box Number P19925,  
Express and Star,  
Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**LOST STEVIE**  
Black with brown chin, long haired boy Cat, 15 months old, missing since June 28, missing from Stanley Road, Darlaston, no chip and no collar, may be a little timid.  
Any info call 0121 5262356.

**1 Family**

**elderly & disabled**

**STAIR LIFT, BATH LIFT**  
Wheel chair, walking frames, shower seat, riser recliner chair.  
All offers considered.  
Tettenhall area  
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Every Sunday  
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**Boaters £3.50**  
6.00am-2pm  
Meat Van Required  
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www.bestbootsales.com

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Classic 25 1996, luxury 2-berth, end washroom. Full and porch awnings. Serviced in May. Many extras. Super condition. Dry storage since 2000.  
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**CHEAP STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE**, on Presthaven Sands in North Wales £14,995 10 & half month season call Joe on 07837 499680

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Disabled Facilities  
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**3 Home & Services**

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Single beds from £99  
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A beautiful lush green lawn turf, cut fresh in easy to lay rolls.  
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**SHEDS AND FENCING AT KNC.** See our new showroom at Willenhall Rd, WV1 3DZ, 01902 450137.

**SLABS** 450mm x 450mm River faced, only £1.68 inc. VAT. Ranton Building Supplies: 01543 276006.

**TWO STROKE** Mountfield rotor blade lawn mower adjustable height wheels, £60 collected. 01785 822588.

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We buy and sell quality used goods.  
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Two seater sofa and two chairs in terracotta. £300  
Two matching lounge chairs in terracotta. £200  
Electric cooker. £40  
Fridge. £40  
Three television tables. £30 each.  
Two chrome/cream kitchen stools. £80 the two.  
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Call Ian 07958 120829.

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Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered & 24 hrs. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.  
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**specialists at your service**

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01922 716029  
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**WINDOWS, DOORS, CONSERVATORIES** misted, broken units, locks 5 year guarantee. 07993 704889.

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Cash waiting, Any size Quick, discreet and professional service  
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Ercol and Teak furniture wanted  
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**A RELIABLE PLUMBER** no job too small, no call out fee. Call Lee: 07713 149278 / 01902 330501

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Local Careful Firm  
Full or Part loads  
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MINI, MIDI & BUILDERS SKIPS WITH DOORS  
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35 years experience  
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Re-Upholstering of Sofas, Dining Furniture, Caravans, Car Retrimms and more.  
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**4 Pets & Animals**

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**5 Business & Farming**

## business directory

## businesses for sale

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**7 Jobs**

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3 x Night time breakdown Controllers  
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Based at our Lakes Care Homes site in Great Wyrley  
\* Providing excellent resident care \* Work as a team member \* Co-operate in operational controls \* Observe health and safety \* Ensure Safeguarding at all times.  
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www.alphacarehomes.com  
Or for further details, please telephone HR department on 01922 409928

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The Education Recruitment Specialists  
**SUPPLY TEACHERS NEEDED**  
We are now recruiting for September day to day, long and short term vacancies in key stages 1 2 3 and 4  
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**SALES PERSON** required for auto electrical specialist parts background is preferred. Mon-Fri. Please email in the first instance jarrod@molelek.co.uk

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£8,600.  
07929 200565.

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£3,595 ono.  
07503 670510

**TOYOTA AYGO** 2007, 56,000 Miles, Ice Blue, abs, EV, air bag, fsh, MoT, pas, Alloys, CD, 57 reg 1.0 vvt-i £2,500 ono 07825 251446

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**CITROEN PICASSO**, 2002, 110,000 miles, one owner, fsh, full service May, MoT, June 24, 2015. £390 ono. 01922 625529.

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**FIAT PUNTO**Active Sport, 1.2, n2 reg, full MoT, low miles, one previous owner, CD, electronics, PAS, good condition, £575. 07486 810190.

**FORD FIESTA 1.3** 02 plate, grey, 12 months MoT, new tyres, excellent condition, £550 ono. 01922 540730.

**JAGUAR XTYPE** 02/03, 2.0 petrol, 96,500 miles, MoT Dec, alarm, immobiliser, alloys, Jag emblem on bonnet, £1,510. 01922 410074

**PEUGEOT 206 HDI** hatch, diesel, 55 reg, 11 months MoT, SH, EW, Cl, computer dash, 69k miles. Any trial, £1,300. 0121 500 6047. West Brom

**PEUGEOT** 307 HDI, 2.0, diesel estate, 2003, full vel, immaculate, many new parts, cheap tax, 11 months MoT, £450. 0121 557 4084.

**RENAULT CLIO** 1.2, 2002, 72,500 miles, Red, MoT Oct, S/F, alloys, new Sony stereo, good for age, reliable. £750 ono. 0741 5690254.

**RENAULT CLIO**, 2001, Y reg, 1.4 Alize, 42,500 miles, grey, MoT, electric windows, air con, alloy CD player, lady owner, ideal 1st car! £850 ono. 0121 556 8774.

**RENAULT MEGANE** 2004, blue, 80,000 miles, 10 mths MoT. £1,000 ono. 07908 924849.

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01785 712040.

**ROVER 214** 1.4 1999, 63,097 Miles, silver, MoT full Feb 03. Good clear condition. Ideal first car. £450 ono 07912 149230

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04. LPG Gas Prim's Fitted. 12 months MoT. Black and chrome. 84,000 miles. New head gasket, £800.  
07852 831167.

**SEAT AROSA**  
54 reg, black, 70,000 miles, 1.0 petrol, alloys, MoT December, cheap tax, ideal first car.  
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**Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control**  
**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (as amended)**  
The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darvall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.  
15/09/2015, Mr & Mrs G & J Benning FOR: ERECTION OF A PAIR OF SEMI-DETACHED DWELLINGS (6 BEDROOM) AT: 5 & 6, DOVERIDGE PLACE, WALSALL, WS1 3EF  
15/07/2015, Castings PLC FOR: CHANGE OF USE OF EXISTING B8 WAREHOUSE TO B2 INDUSTRIAL INCLUDING ALTERATIONS TO FORM STAFF WELFARE AND ANCILLARY OFFICES; TRANSFER LOBBY AND PLANT ROOM UNDER EXISTING CANOPY. AT: CASTINGS PLC, LICHFIELD ROAD, BROWN HILLS, WALSALL, WS8 6AZ  
15/08/2015, Mr Burhan Kurair FOR: SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION, NEW FRONT AND DEMOLITION OF FRONT WALL, AT: 11 NORTON ROAD, WALSALL, WS3 4AY  
15/07/2015, Mr Sean Wordley FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM CLASS C2 (RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTION) TO CLASS C3 (DWELLINGS) CONVERTING PREMISES TO 17 X 1 BED SELF CONTAINED FLATS FOR PERSONS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES, WITH ANCILLARY OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND MINOR ELEVATION CHANGES TO DOORWAYS. AT: 2 SPRING LANE, WALSALL, WS4 1AZ  
\*15/07/2015, WALSALL COUNCIL FOR: EXTENSION TO EXISTING CEMETERY, INCLUDING RE-ALIGNMENT OF PART OF BENTLEY LANE, PROPOSED ADDITIONAL ACCESS, RE-ROUTING OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (WILL 35,36,37), LANDSCAPING AND SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE AT: LAND ADJACENT TO WILLENHALL LAWN CEMETERY, BENTLEY LANE, WALSALL, WS12 4AE  
\*15/09/2015, Mrs Sylvia Timmins FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM HORSE RIDING ESTABLISHMENT TO STORAGE OF LEISURE VEHICLES, PRIMARILY TOURING CARAVANS, AND ASSOCIATED GROUNDWORKS AT: 138, GREEN LANE, SHELFIELD, WALSALL, WS4 1RR  
15/09/2015, Mr P Sangha FOR: ERECTION OF A SELF CONTAINED FLATS AT: LAND REAR OF 56 AND 62 WEDNESBURY ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 3RR  
The application marked \* does not accord with the provisions of the development plan for the area.

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**9 Local Information**


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**IRENE ELIZABETH MANSELL (Deceased)**  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 54 Rutler Street Walsall WS1 4HJ, who died on 24/04/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 17/09/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.  
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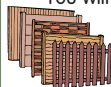
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**MICHELLE**, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417651

**SANDY**, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581

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**DAVE** 55, seeks tiny broadminded slim, small breasted, long hair blonde/ginger female for adult fun/LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 4757127

**CUDDLY** 50 year old male, hard working, seeks genuine woman for days and nights out and no strings fun. Text only to Mailbox No: 4437594

**DAVE** 37 looking for a nice lady any age to have a laugh with so if that's you text me. Text only to Mailbox No: 4320134

**DUBLINER**, good sense of humour, strong and very fit would love to meet a warm sensitive lady, non smoker. Text only to Mailbox No: 4754715

**WIDOWER** would love to meet female over 70 for friendship. Car owner. Fed up being lonely. Text only to Mailbox No: 4760869

**MALE**, 50yrs, caring, easy going seeks female 40/50 for friendship/relationship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4761012

**TALL**, dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive younger female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752

**DENNIS** 72, widower, seeking female, 60-65 for friendship, travel companion, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713

**ATTRACTIVE** male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713

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## Age is just a number to veteran Chambers

SKIPPER Adam Chambers insists age is no barrier as he prepares to lead Walsall's promotion charge.

The midfielder celebrates his 35th birthday during the 2015/16 campaign but believes that won't stop him from playing a key role for the Saddlers next season.

Boss Dean Smith has already confirmed he will be keeping a close eye on Chambers' fitness throughout the year, with the manager telling him 'you never know when old father time will kick in'. But the former Albion star, who was appointed club captain before the start of last season, feels as fit as ever.

"As far as I'm concerned age is just a number," Chambers said. "I've spoken to the manager about it but I'm just dedicated to doing the best job I can for the team.

"Everyone is different and players get affected by age at different times.

"But I've always made sure I've looked after myself.

"I still feel as fit as ever. And as long as I feel good and feel I can make a positive contribution then I will keep on playing."

While Chambers signed a new one-year-deal with the club last month, his twin brother James has so far stalled on signing a similar deal which was offered to him at the end of last season.

The centre-half is weighing up whether to hang up his boots or not as he pursues interests outside of football.

And Adam admits he doesn't know whether his brother will sign or not.

"I'm not sure what James is going to do," he said. "He has got interests outside of football."

## Women's side is back for pre-season

WALSALL Ladies are back in pre season training this week.

After a successful season winning the West Midlands Division 1 North, they are now back in the West Midlands Premier.

Their first three fixtures starting on August 23 are away to TNS away, followed by two home games on the 30th against Knowle home and September 6 against Wednesfield.

They have pre season friendlies lined up and are still looking for players along with a coach and physio to work closely with the first team manager.

The open age Swifts who play in Birmingham County league division one also require a coach/manager. There are places available in their squad.

These positions are on a voluntary basis please contact Brian 07817 785690 or Gary 07950 975320 email briansimpson1949@outlook.com or garylargo@hotmail.com. The squad trains at West Walsall E Act Academy on Tuesday evenings.

## Yacob pens a new deal with Albion

MIDFIELDER Claudio Yacob has handed Tony Pulis a major boost by penning a new two-year contract at Albion.

The 27-year-old signed the deal after flying home from the club's pre-season training camp in Austria.

Yacob has made 85 appearances for the Baggies since joining from Racing Club three years ago.

Albion had already activated a one-year option to keep him for next season but have now extended his contract for a further 12 months.

Yacob had fallen down the pecking order under former boss Alan Irvine.

Director of football administration Richard Garlick said: "Everybody saw Claudio's contribution to the team, particularly over the second half of last season."

# Elite club adds black belts to ranks

MEMBERS of Walsall Elite Martial Arts are punching the air with delight over two newly promoted 1st degree black belts and a haul of medals from a national event.

Brother and sister duo Aadam and Tahira Khan travelled to Bristol to take their two-hour grading in front of the Tae Kwon Do Association of Great Britain (TAGB) council.

The club enjoyed even more success as their sparring team took part in the Open Tae Kwon Do Welsh Championships in Cardiff.

Instructors Jason Rowley, Emily-Jane Arms, who are also brother and sister and both 4th degree black belts led the way for their students by earning med-

als in their events. Rowley won Bronze in the men's black belt heavy weight individual sparring division.

Arms won Gold in the black belt ladies tag team division.

Students Tim Sheward and Aadam Khan also enjoyed a successful event, Sheward won gold in the heavyweight, red belt male cadet's individual sparring division.

Meanwhile Khan entered his first black belt event in which he fought his way through the boy's light-weight black belt sparring division to be rewarded with a bronze.

Instructor Jason Rowley, said: "This was another successful grading and championships for Walsall

EMA. Obtaining a black belt is a proud moment for the students, the instructors and for the students' family and friends.

"It takes dedication and perseverance to achieve your black belt and to have such continued success at national competitions makes us proud to be part of our students martial arts journey."

Walsall EMA is looking to enrol more students to join their winning team.

The club stages classes in judo, Tae Kwon Do, kick boxing, Tigers and ladies FabFITness, for more information visit [www.walsallemartialarts.co.uk](http://www.walsallemartialarts.co.uk); call Emily on 07971196676 or email [emily@walsallemartialarts.co.uk](mailto:emily@walsallemartialarts.co.uk).

# French tour one of the best, says boss

**KENNY Jackett says his time in France was the best pre-season tour of his career as Wolves ended their trip on a high with two wins out of two.**

Donovan Wilson's late winner gave Wolves a 1-0 win over Paris FC, following on from their 3-2 success over FC Chambly two days earlier.

For the second game in succession a young striker struck late to give Wolves victory.

And Jackett was delighted with his team's performance in a new 4-3-1-2 formation, which the head coach felt could play to his squad's strengths.

"It was an improvement on Wednesday's game, the players looked sharper and we had more cohesion," Jackett said.

"You can see quite a well-balanced group at the moment in terms of how the players are developing.

"I felt it (4-3-1-2) suited everybody bar probably Ethan Ebanks-Landell who played just in front of the back four but he's a natural centre-back, and Declan Weeks who played at right-back. Other than that everybody was in position.

### Competition

"With Jack Price, George Saville and Lee Evans if he didn't get a loan, it would suit a lot of my players playing that way. The competition and the creativity and the ability to play the ball and keep it and still retain two forwards was the biggest reason for it.

"It could play to our strengths more."

The players were leaving the famed Clairefontaine academy this morning, with their next pre-season fixture coming against Burton Albion next Saturday.

Jackett hailed the successful week in France – and said he was looking forward to facing English opposition again.

He added: "It's probably the best pre-season tour I've been on in terms of facilities, pitches, everything is here.

"It's been a good week – we've got to the end of the week with no injuries, one or two different systems and different combinations of players as I continue through pre-season and the build-up to Blackburn.

"I'm looking forward now to the league opposition, the standard of the two French sides was good and Paris could certainly move the ball, but I'm looking forward now to playing against league opposition to really see where we are."

## Shire show they're champion stuff



Shire Oak captains Matthew Nuttall, Liam McDermott, Harjeevan Purewal, Niamh Lidgbird, Demi Wilkes and Isabelle Webster with England athlete Ashley Cooper (centre)

SHIRE Oak Academy has proved to have the best athletes in the borough after they won the Walsall Schools Athletics competition.

Fifteen schools from across the borough competed in the event at the Alexander Stadium, Perry Barr and the young athletes went one better than last year by winning outright.

Paul Banbery, PE teacher at Shire Oak Academy said: "Our

athletes won a record number of medals this year with all athletes giving their very best.

"Boys champions for the third year running was great, but taking home the Keith Read overall winners trophy was the icing on the cake. Well done to all of our terrific athletes once again."

**Keith Read Memorial Award** (Combined Boys and Girls): 1st Shire Oak – 331 (Highest ever combined score);

2nd – Pool Hayes 294 (Last year's Overall and girls champions); 3rd – St. Francis 288.

**Boys Competition:** 1st – Shire Oak 192 (3rd year running and highest score ever); 2nd – QM Grammar 155; 3rd – Pool Hayes 131.

**Girls Competition:** 1st – St. Francis 177; 2nd – Pool Hayes 163; 3rd – Aldridge 160; 4th – Shire Oak 139.

# All change for Reedswood in link-up

FC Reedswood will be joining Sporting Khalsa FC and coming out under a new team name next season.

Reedswood have decided to join Sporting and change its name to Sporting Khalsa Women.

The women's team have hailed the welcoming and very supportive attitude they have had from Sporting and welcome the opportunity to make use of their excellent facilities that meet the level required to compete in the FAWPL.

Kelly Williams, founder and chairwoman of the club said: "We are very excited about joining Sporting Khalsa and believe that this is an important step for our club.

"We will benefit from a whole new range of facilities and will have better playing and training opportunities."

"Building a stronger foundation will help both the men and women's team to progress, and enable us to develop new players and volunteers.

"The new ground we will be playing on will be located in a less rural area, with good transport links, and we are hoping this will help us to attract committed players and volunteers.

"After being ranked the second best team in Staf-

### Football

fordshire, we decided that is time to take a big step in being able to offer our players a better training and playing ground, with neatly superior facilities than the previous in use.

"Our supporters will also benefit from the location of the new ground, which has better transport links from both Walsall and Wolverhampton."

Now Sporting Khalsa Women are looking for dedicated individuals who have relevant experience to fill in volunteer roles such as managers, coaches and sports therapists.

Considering the team's success and its future prospects, we believe that these are opportunities to expand one's skills and understanding of the women's game and also help our club to further progress.

### Climbed

FC Reedswood Ladies were formed in 2004. The senior squad play in the FA Women's Premier League. The club was founded by current chairwoman Kelly Williams and have enjoyed success as

they climbed up the ladies winter football pyramid.

The ladies reached the 3rd round of the FA Women's Cup last season, the final of the Staffordshire Ladies Challenge Cup and finished in eighth position in the League.

Last season the club added an open age development team, and U-18s team and have added an U-13s side for the coming season.

The U-18s finished last season unbeaten in the Central Warwickshire Girls League, winning the Division 1 league title with 62 points and scoring 99 goals. They were based at Long Lane Park, Essington, near Wolverhampton.

Sporting Khalsa FC were founded in 1991 and we have had a good relationship with the club over the years having been tenants of theirs for a couple of seasons at Abbey Park Stadium, Walsall.

They have 15 teams, the men's team have been promoted to the Midland Football League Premier Division for this season after an amazing run of success in the West Midlands Regional League, finishing the season on 117 (27 points clear of their nearest rivals) and also winning the Staffordshire FA Vase. The team plays at the Aspray Arena.

## Paddock is ready for first defence of his title

WALSALL'S Luke Paddock will make a maiden defence of his Midlands Area Light Welterweight Title against Stoke's Andy Keates at the start of the new boxing season.

The Bloxwich boxer will face up to Keates at Banks's Stadium, home to his local football club, Walsall FC, on Friday September 4.

Paddock lifted the belt back in December when he was a convincing winner against fellow undefeated fighter, Josh McLaren in Burslem.

"It's a fight I'm already looking forward to," said Saddlers-supporting Paddock.

"It seems like a long time since I won the belt and I can't wait to defend it in my home town, at my football club."

It's a fight that opponent Keates, a stablemate of McLaren, is also relishing.

"I like Luke, he's a nice boxer," added the Stoke man.

"He doesn't like pressure though and that's what he's going to get.

"I beat him as an amateur and I plan on beating him as a pro," insisted Keates.

Paddock and Keates headline Black Country Boxing's four-fight card in the Stadium Suite.

Old Hill Lightweight, Manny Zaber, Gloucester light heavyweight, Scott Gibbins Jr, and Ludlow light middleweight, Craig Morris, also feature.

Tickets are £50 and include a three-course meal and are available by calling 01922 651 414 or you can opt of the £30 standard and £40 stage ringside which are available by calling 07881 376 512.

## Etheridge is eager to get the No.1 spot

NEIL ETHERIDGE insists he is ready to be Walsall's No.1 goalkeeper, despite a lack of first team experience.

The talented 25-year-old became the Saddlers' second signing of the close season when he put pen to paper on a two-year deal earlier this month.

The Philippines international has won 44 caps but has played only 20 games at club level following loan spells at Bristol Rovers, Charlton and Crewe.

Now the promising shot-stopper has been charged with replacing last season's player of the year Richard O'Donnell following his move to Wigan. "I'm absolutely ready to be first choice," he said.

"I've got experience at international level but it is different to playing regularly for your club.

"It's a long season so I have to work hard and be very consistent.

"I'll give everything though and when that game comes around against Oldham I will be ready."

## Sherwood is delighted as Delph to stay

BOSS Tim Sherwood has hailed Fabian Delph for his loyalty after the skipper turned down the chance to join Manchester City to stay with Villa.

It had been anticipated the 25-year-old England international would make an £8m switch to City, with the deal expected to be completed over the weekend.

But in a remarkable turn of events, Delph decided he would instead remain at Villa Park, much to his manager's delight.

Sherwood said: "We are looking to build something here and we're looking to keep our best players. Fabian is certainly one of those.

"It's just an example of the measure of the guy really that he decided to stay. And I'm delighted to have him here next season."





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## Hopes of a windfall suffer delay

WALSALL'S hopes of a cash windfall have been dealt a blow after it was revealed the proposed move to Wigan of Brentford's Will Grigg is not as close as first thought.

The former Saddlers star is a key target for the League One title favourites who have already seen a £700,000 bid rejected.

Grigg left Walsall for a tribunal-set £325,000 in 2013 with the deal including a 20 per cent sell-on clause if the Northern Ireland international was transferred from Brentford to another club.

It had previously been said Wigan were closing in on a £1m deal for the striker - a move which would have netted Walsall a six-figure add-on.

But those reports are now believed to be premature with Wigan also weighing up moves for Billy Sharp of Leeds and Rotherham's Matt Derbyshire.

Grigg is thought to be the No.1 target for Wigan boss Gary Caldwell, but Sharp could be available for less money as Leeds look to claw back some of the cash they paid Leicester for Chris Wood.

MK Dons, where Grigg scored 20 goals in a successful loan spell last season, are also believed to be after the striker's signature.

Meanwhile, Walsall's hopes of resigning striker Jordy Hiwula have been dealt a blow after it emerged that Bolton, Blackburn, Leeds and Celtic have joined Huddersfield in the race for the Manchester City star.

The 20-year-old, who scored nine goals in 20 games while on loan with the Saddlers last season, was known to be a key loan target for boss Dean Smith this summer. But City are now looking to sell him for a nominal fee, with a move to the Championship likely.

## Rushall grab win as Heath Hayes show off young talent

Heath Hayes FC 1  
Rushall Olympic FC 3

A young Heath Hayes side made up of some very talented lads gave Rushall as good as they got in this first pre-season friendly.

Hayes took an early lead from a brilliant eight-pass move neatly finished off by Ryan Burns.

On the half hour Rushall equalised through Sinton who looked offside when he took the pass.

The first half ended 1-1 with the Rushall keeper being the busier.

An even second half was in flow when Hayes were awarded a penalty for hand ball which saw the Olympic pull off a fantastic save down in his right hand corner.

As the game was drawing to a close Olympic took the lead through Trevon and again through Dellaney.

This was a fine performance on Saturday from a team with 10 players under 21, with the signs looking encouraging for the coming season.

The game was watched and enjoyed by a crowd of 150 supporters.

## Skipper backing Mantom to star again

SKIPPER Adam Chambers has backed fellow midfielder Sam Mantom to recapture the form that saw him crowned the club's player of the year.

The 23-year-old midfield schemer only managed 12 league appearances for the Saddlers last season after being ruled out for most of the campaign with a knee injury.

Now back to full fitness, Mantom is expected to add both goals and creativity to a Walsall side that scored only 50 times in League One last season - the fifth lowest in the division.

And Chambers is tipping Mantom to soon re-

### Football

discover the form that saw him named the club's best player after the 2013/14 campaign.

"It will be massive for both Sam and the team to have him fit for the whole campaign," the captain said.

"He has to first win his place in the side but it would be nice for me to play alongside Sam again."

"He had that injury last season but the year before he showed everyone how good he is."

"He has come back for pre-season in great shape and he's so important to the team because

he does bring goals and his array of passing is also very good."

"But for a young lad he also know the game really well. He can be a leader out there, he brings a lot to the team. We certainly missed him last season."

The goals of 2014/15 loanee Jordy Hiwula may also be missing after reports emerged yesterday linking him with a move to Championship outfit Huddersfield Town.

Meanwhile, Saddlers fitness coach Jon Whitney believes the hamstring woes of star striker Tom Bradshaw are now behind him thanks to the work he's been doing over the close season.

# WOOD EQUAL TO THE PITMEN

Walsall Wood 1 Hednesford Town 1

**THREE levels of the football pyramid separated the teams, but as the officials said after the game you would have been hard pushed to differentiate who was who.**

Wood took a first half lead and were the better side, playing some superb flowing football, changes in the second half saw the Pitmen grab an equaliser but at no time did Wood look overawed by their higher league opposition.

It was a cagey opening but it was Wood, moving the ball confidently, who threatened first. Steven Hales feeding Corey Curritthers wide left, he played the ball inside to find Drew Aiton to cleverly sidestep his marker but roll his shot wide of the left hand post after six minutes.

Town won a corner on the left after 12 minutes, the ball was only half cleared out to Ben Bailey 25 yards out, Aiton making a brave block on his first time drive.

### Deflecting

Wood took the lead on 17 minutes, Max Black putting Lewis Taylor Boyce in on goal, his low drive deflecting off a defender, looping into the net off the inside of the post.

Neat play wide left by Paul Ennis saw him go through two challenges, cross low into the box for Kyle Perry to hit a first time effort but keeper Mario Kisiel saved comfortably. On 28 minutes Hales raced clear wide left, played the ball inside to Aiton to curl a 30-yard effort that swung wide of the far post.

Two minutes later Curtis Tilt was released into the centre of the box, Kisiel out quickly and bravely to push his low drive around the post.

The last goalmouth action of the first half came on 34 minutes, Craig Deakin's near post right wing cross had been put behind for a corner, the flag kick was over-hit but was collected by Curritthers to fire a first time effort just wide of the left of the box.

It was Wood who threatened first in the second half, four minutes in Taylor Boyce fired in a right



Former Glassboy Luke Benbow in control of the ball during the pre-season action

wing cross, that was only half cleared, straight to debutant Josh O'Garra, his first time drive deflected wide.

On 57 minutes Ahmed Obeng raced inside from wide right, his goal-bound effort also deflected just wide by O'Garra.

Six minutes later a long, right wing throw into the Wood box caused absolute mayhem, but somehow the ball stayed out.

The Pitmen equalised on 69 minutes with a powerful run by Stan Mugishda which ended with him firing in a powerful low drive that keeper Ryan Price pushed out, but only to Obeng, the keeper couldn't hold his first time drive and Tilt

pounced to force the ball home. Wood had the better of the closing minutes, Joey Butlin faded across the face of the Town box from right to left before being brought down, he took the free kick himself but fired high and wide.

With three minutes left Butlin ran at the defence, played the ball right to Luke Adams whose low cross was hit first time through a crowd of players by Sam Melia to bring a full-length save from Dave Parton.

It's Wood who go forward with optimism, this was an improvement on the hard fought 3-2 win over Burntwood Town when two goals from Drew Aiton and one from Leon Taylor sealed it.

## New blood helps squad to easy win

A WALSALL team featuring four tri-als ran out comfortable 6-0 winners against Nike Academy in their first pre-season friendly.

The match, which was played behind-closed-doors at St George's Park, in Burton, took place yesterday morning and was split into three 30-minute stages.

New recruits Jason Demetriou and Neil Etheridge made their first appearances in Saddlers shirts against the Academy side which is made up of released players under the age of 20 who are looking for a new club.

Boss Dean Smith plumped for Craig MacGillivray to start in goal with Demetriou starting at right-back and Jordan Cook up front.

And the Saddlers made a bright start with Anthony Forde cutting inside and rattling the cross bar after two minutes.

After long spells of possession, Walsall broke the dead-lock mid-way through the half with Forde's cross headed home by a diving Adam Chambers.

The second half-hour saw Sam Mantom, Liam Kinsella and Tom Bradshaw all introduced with Walsall soon doubling their lead when Reece Planagan's corner was bundled into his own net by the Academy keeper. Bradshaw then made it 3-0, sweeping the ball home from a low left-wing cross. Last season's top scorer then produced two smart finishes inside the box to grab a quick fire hat-trick.

Etheridge was one of the players introduced along with Kieron Morris and Romaine Sawyers for the final 30 minutes.

And it was the Saint Kitts & Nevis international who wrapped up the scoring. After seeing an initial effort blocked by the keeper.

## Young Turks set Jackett thinking

KENNY JACKETT admits Wolves' young stars have given him 'food for thought' as he fine-tunes his Championship squad ahead of the new season.

Several of Wolves' next band of youngsters to graduate from Compton Park impressed during the pre-season trip to Clairefontaine last week.

Strikers Donovan Wilson and Bright Enobakhare scored the winning goals in Wolves' two victories over FC Chambly and Paris FC, while attacking midfielder Connor Ronan showed glimpses of his burgeoning talent.

Declan Weeks, Aaron Hayden, Sylvain Deslandes, Jon Platt and Harry Burgoyne also impressed during the week, in what was a youthful Wolves squad.

★★★

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